


The Book Reviews of Chester Cuthbert

Authors' surnames beginning with

Mc-Mi



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McBain, Ed

Ghosts: An 87th Precinct Novel; New York, The Viking Press
(1980, Hui Corporation) 212p.

Highly recommended by Stephen King, this murder mystery surprised me by presenting a medium as a principal character and a genuinely haunted house with real ghosts as incidents.

A horror novelist who has sold a non-fiction book about the haunted house which becomes a best-seller is murdered and his publisher and agent follow him to death before investigation is aided by the medium to solve the mystery.

McBain reveals sufficient sexual activity and perversions among his characters to indicate that he accepts these as a part of normal human life. His protagonist claims to like police work in spite of its stress on his home and family life and its danger to him personally.

I seldom read this kind of novel, but I liked this because it supports my own view of parapsychology.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 5, 1997

3246 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 0Y9
(204) 831-7777

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FirstCity Trust

McBrayer, James T.

The Key to Hypnotism Simplified; Illustrated; no place, Ottenheimer Publishers, Inc.; Recommended Books 184p.

Bob Kruger lent me this book. It is a reasonably good exposition of the subject, marred only by grammatical errors. There is no mention of supernormal phenomena; the book is intended only to improve the nature and personality of both the hypnotist and the subject, and their health.

The author considers that knowledge of hypnotism makes for a superior person. He acknowledges that his book does not exhaust the subject and is limited to practical use.

Chester D. Cuthbert

October 5, 2000

McBride, Robert Medill, and Pritchie, Neil (Editors)

Great Hoaxes of All Time; New York, Robert M. McBride
Co. (1956, Publishers) 282p.

This is a symposium of articles by various authors with short introductory notes by the editors. These are different from those in the three other books of short hoaxes I have read, and because I have three of them in other volumes, I did not read those beginning with pages 117, 131, and 196.

(10) Newspapermen started the hoax that led to the Boxer rebellion in China. (25) Rasputin. (53) Harold Hoffman the Governor of New Jersey and Congressman who embezzled. (68) Rocky Salerno and Ola Mae Hall, bigamy for service men's allowances. (79) The Trojan Horse. (93) Juan & Eva Peron in Argentina. (117) Count von Luckner, the Sea Devil. (158) 2 Biblical hoaxes. (170) Napoleon and Karl Schulmeister. (181) Jeanne de Valois and the Diamond Necklace. (196) Perkins and his electric tractors. (206) Harold Kenneth Rain, impostor surgeon. (234) Joseph Eugene Clement Passal, fake secret society to kidnap himself. (255) Jasper Maskelyne, magician who organized camouflage and fake armies and equipment of cardboard to fool the Germans. (270) Richard Adams Locke and the Moon Hoax as retold by Barnum.

These are all interesting, and some are important.

McCabe, Joseph

Do We Live Forever?: A Reply to Clarence True Wilson;
Girard, Kansas, Haldeman-Julius Publications (1929) 32p.
(Little Blue Book No. 1450)

The article here castigated by McCabe appeared in the Forum for February, 1929, and this book appears to be a reprint of an article which was published in The American Freeman. Introducing the article, McCabe mentions that he has been writing for Haldeman-Julius for three years; is 61 years of age, cheerful and content; and a staunch rationalist.

The bulk of the article is an analysis of the reasoning used by Wilson in support of a belief in immortality. McCabe accuses Wilson of dishonest misrepresentation, and avers that most modern psychologists reject the belief and are convinced that the mind is a function of the brain. As is usual with McCabe, this book is well written and convincing; it is also biassed. McCabe mentions that most of his readers will be aware that he has set forth the evidence in support of his views at length in others of his writings. This book merely scoffs, therefore, at the spectacle of an intelligent churchman (Wilson was General Secretary of the Board of Temperance, Prohibition, and Public Morals of the Methodist Episcopal Church) attempting to present "rational grounds for belief" in a future life.

McCabe, Joseph

The End of the World; With Numerous Illustrations;
London, George Routledge & Sons, Ltd., 1921; Index 267p.

This is a popular survey of astronomical thought at the time just prior to publication. It is interesting and easy to read, but offers little original material to warrant its being kept for reference.

McCabe foresees the ultimate death of the earth when the sun cools and is unable to sustain life, but is not concerned about this constituting the end of mankind because he feels that the race of man will die of other causes long before the sun fails.

McCabe, Joseph.

The Evolution of Civilization; London, Watts & Co.,
n. d. (circa 1921) 120p.

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This is an interesting and well-written sketch of the development of mankind. McCabe says that the decay of the earlier civilizations was due to imperialism and war rather than to immorality. In fact, he states that sexual morality was as high or higher than that of modern states, and that any evidence to the contrary is false evidence. As to slavery, he forgives earlier nations as developing out of barbarism, and says that the slaves were better treated than American blacks, or British industrial workers, and that we have no grounds for priding ourselves. He points out that civilization as such was extinguished when Rome fell, and the Moorish conquest of Spain constituted the first revival prior to the Renaissance.

McCabe, Joseph

The Religion of Sir Oliver Lodge; London, Watts & Co., 1914
178p.

I came across this coverless quality paperback when I was sorting books recently, and as I have now finished reading all I have of Lodge's own books I decided to see what McCabe thought of them.

After McCabe renounced Catholicism he became a writer of many rationalist books. I read some of these and thought he was so biassed against religion and in favor of reason that his books had to be read cautiously. His style is clear and forceful, however, and his books are worthwhile.

I'm not sufficiently well read in religion to appreciate all the topics discussed, but McCabe denounces Lodge's pomposity and dogmatism on the subject, and even on biological matters which Lodge was not qualified to discuss and which McCabe considered himself better acquainted with. McCabe's scholarship is without question, but Lodge was an important thinker and not to be dismissed so cavalierly as McCabe declares.

McCabe says that there is no proof of the spiritual world on which Lodge writes so much, and no evidence that mind or soul can exist apart from matter. Consequently, I was surprised to find that he was pretty much in agreement with me in accepting the reality of telepathy and some other psychic phenomena.

He quotes Podmore and seems to agree with him. Podmore's books are very important, but he tried to explain all psychic phenomena in terms of telepathy; this explanation is inadequate.

I respect both McCabe and Lodge, but Lodge's view is more likely to prevail than the narrow materialistic view of McCabe.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 11, 1995

3246 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 0Y9
(204) 831-7777

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McCabe, Joseph

The Riddle of the Universe To-Day; London, Watts & Co.,
(1934); Index 250p.

In this book, McCabe's sole aim is to prove that nothing in the advance of science during the preceding thirty years has altered the monistic philosophy outlined in Haeckel's book, or offered support to any dualistic philosophy, in view of the claims made, particularly by Jeans and Eddington, that materialism is not an adequate explanation of the latest developments in physics and astronomy. McCabe's scornful rejection of the claims that religion and science are no longer antagonistic amounts to an accusation that religious leaders, particularly the Roman Catholic Church, influence schools and teachers to disguise the truth.

Certainly on the basis of the evidence he presents, the religious bias is unquestionable. But McCabe offers evidence to show that the advance of scientific materialism has taken from philosophy several of its departments and has established them as sciences; and that these have developed to the point that even the terms used to denote spiritualistic concepts are no longer accepted.

It must be conceded that Haeckel and McCabe envision scientific progress as the most efficient means of raising the standards of mankind and improving civilization. McCabe appears to have read Huxley's "Brave New World", referring to it as "a very clever and amusing warning against what science proposes to do." He avers, however, that the advantages to mankind would so much outweigh the dangers that no reasonable man would hesitate to choose in favor of science.

Probably this book's chief value is to serve as a check on the philosophic views expressed by Jeans and Eddington, and to place them in proper perspective in connection with their bearing on sciences other than astronomy and even within the scope of that science.

McCall, Lenore

Between Us and the Dark; Philadelphia and New York, J.
B. Lippincott Company (1947, Publishers) 303p.

Although an autobiographical record of five years spent in mental hospitals until insulin shock treatments cured her of illness from depression, the names of the characters and institutions are disguised; only the Foreword by C. Charles Burlingame, M.D. authenticates the account.

Very well written by the wife of a lawyer, I consider this one of the best accounts I have read by a person who has recovered from insanity. I am recommending that Ruth and Mary should read it.

This is educational, not only for former patients, but for their families and for the general public. The fear and suspicion disclosed is, as the doctors declared, of the illness itself rather than of others, an important point to be considered.

McCartney, P.

Who Sups with the Devil?; London, New English Library
(#23133), (1975, author) 144p.

Inspector Bob March and his assistant Sgt John Fitzgerald are assigned to investigate the murder of a nun in a convent newly purchased by the order and found to be apparently the scene of weird noises and indications of haunting.

A servant girl is also murdered while they are investigating; they see a sleek-coated black dog which has a noisome odor; they meet a doctor who admits an interest in satanism; and they are told by a local constable of a fire during which the death or disappearance of a girl and a man took place.

These elements lead ultimately to the discovery that the man involved in the fire had been badly burned, had adopted a nun's habit, and with his face hideously disfigured, had frightened many people, and had been the source of the moans and noises which had suggested the haunting. This man had been a member of a group of satanists led by the doctor, who had taken a dark wife, beautiful but a drug fiend, to lead their orgies.

The author appears to be newly acquainted with the data regarding satanism, and is not a master at handling his material in fiction form. He wavers between outright supernaturalism and a naturalistic explanation, so leaving the story unconvincing in either respect; particularly suggesting the black dog as an embodiment of satan and the doctor as a convinced devotee. He handles the elements of the story more as props to suggest the supernatural than as actual experiences of it.

His characters are unconvincing also, March and his assistant being more a boy's impression of their type than any adequate depiction of them as functioning human beings. The shifting viewpoint from which the story is told breaks up any unity or identification of the reader with any character, and the narration of the story of the fire by the local constable is so stilted and obviously concocted as to seem ridiculous.

This is an amateurish attempt at the kind of story which requires expert treatment to be effective, and fails in every way.

Encounters with Parapsychology; Pittsburgh, Pa., author
Bibliography; Indexes (1981, author) 235p.

This volume consists of a historical overview of the principal advocates and their reasons for promoting as a scientific study the phenomena of psychical research. Barrett, James, Prince, McDougall, Upton Sinclair, Vasiliev, Heywood, Murphy, Rhine, Margenau, Pratt, Honorton, Hyman, Jahn, and the Editor and Mrs. Clark are represented, and a number of other authorities are mentioned.

The editor is more concerned with experimentation than with the investigation of spontaneous cases, so there is no mention of Harry Price in England, or Hereward Carrington in the U. S., whose books were influential in popularizing the science and making it comprehensible to the layman. He is correct in saying that much of the scientific research is reported in technical language, and that the equipment used in testing results in laboratory investigations is unfamiliar to the public, so that technical reports are difficult to understand. His work is aimed primarily at scientists.

Nonetheless, this book assembles from sources often not easily obtainable important opinions.

I read the two books of Rosalind Heywood rather than the chapter devoted to her; I also read from the Proceedings of the SPR some papers not quoted at full length in this book.

I had previously read all of the papers William James and Upton Sinclair had presented; and was familiar with the work of several pioneers. I had not encountered Ray Hyman, however, and was impressed by his paper. His skepticism is implied by his comments on the work of Wallace and Crookes; and by his expression (p.161) "the conjuring antics of Uri Geller". I agree that Geller is too much of a showman; but I think it is far from being proven that his phenomena are unreal. They appear to have been repeated by (for instance) Matthew Manning. Hyman is right, without question, in saying that scientists are wrong to ignore or deprecate the work of parapsychologists rather than to criticize honestly. But his own bias seems to me to ignore phenomena for which no rational explanation has been offered.

This book should encourage scientists in other fields to consider seriously the reality of psychic phenomena.

McConnell, R. A.

ESP Curriculum Guide; New York, Simon and Schuster; 2nd
Printing; Fireside paperback edition (1970, 1971, author);
Appendixes; Indexes 128p.

Intended for the use of teachers of psychology, biology
and general science in secondary schools and colleges, this
is the first such guide that I have seen.

The author's qualifications are demonstrated by the care
and expertise of the presentation, and by his critical com-
ments on the books he recommends for study. Of these I have:
Heywood: Beyond the Reach of Sense (Eng. The Sixth Sense)
ESP: A Personal Memoir (Eng. The Infinite Hive)
Rhine, et al: Extrasensory Perception after Sixty Years
Rhine: Extrasensory Perception
Rhine: Hidden Channels of the Mind
Of his "omitted books" I have only
Warcollier: Mind to Mind

Of the books referred to in Appendix I, I have:
Hansel: ESP: A Scientific Evaluation
Do. (Revised edition.)
Sinclair: Mental Radio (Original edition)

Appendix 2 is very interesting on the classification
and sale of occult books. As McConnell intimates, once the
phenomena of ESP are admitted to the canon of orthodox sci-
ence, a re-classification will be necessary. As a long-time
student of the fantasy fiction field, I have always classi-
fied books accepting spiritualistic phenomena as fantastic,
and those rationalizing such phenomena as "mainstream" or
associational, but in correspondence with people interested
in the field have indicated how so many books now considered
as fantasy may have to be introduced to mainstream litera-
ture. By comparison with the derided early days of science
fiction, we are now living in a science fiction world; and
many science fiction novels are now marketed as straight
fiction or novels, rather than specifically science fiction.

The remaining appendixes are practical instructions on
conducting experiments in ESP.

The indexes are useful for quick reference, both for
teachers and students.

McConnell, R. A.

An Introduction to Parapsychology in the Context of Science; Pittsburgh, Author, University of Pittsburgh (1983, author); Bibliography; Indexes 337p.

This volume is divided into three sections: The Psychosocial Substrate; The Observation of psi Phenomena; and The Sociology of Parapsychology. Together they present for the serious student a thorough outline of the subject, and with the bibliography, which recommends few popular treatments, should prepare anyone to understand the status of the situation as of date of publication.

McConnell makes it clear that adopting parapsychology as a career means fighting established science for recognition and acceptance. Even scientifically demonstrated phenomena cannot be assimilated by the framework of the established sciences unless they are revolutionarily changed to accommodate the new facts.

In the appendices, the author gives instances of the prejudices and ignorance or malpractices of professional people which endanger the public and keep it from knowing the true situation.

The book is an essential reference. Too many notes would be required to summarize its contents; but the indexes provide easy access to the feast of information.

Parapsychology and Self-Deception in Science; Pittsburgh University of Pittsburgh (Author, 1982); Index 150p.

Primarily, this volume of essays is devoted to cases of facts being rejected by publications, by university faculty, and by orthodox science establishments because of fear that these facts would shake the foundations of accepted knowledge or the authority of established reputations.

A report by C. K. Jen of extraocular image transmission by schoolchildren in China was rejected as incredible despite several experimental demonstrations.

Narrow publication criteria were alleged as reason to reject without revision a paper published as submitted in this volume.

Another chapter on "wishing with dice" is published. I did not study this chapter, as it is an instance where I am accustomed to accept the verdict of scientists more competent than I am as to its validity.

The longest chapter narrates the struggle of T. K. Clark to obtain approval of a scientific paper to qualify her for a career in parapsychology. Because of what amounts to persecution by at least some members of the examining committee, 12 years passed before this was accomplished; Clark has produced superior work.

The final chapter is devoted to a survey of the probable near future of mankind in the light of depletion of natural resources and the incompetence of governments in managing the economies with a view to conservation. McConnell is perhaps unduly pessimistic, but this essay is a needed warning.

The author's foreword "Escape from Reality" sets a key-note for the essays which demonstrate that each individual lives in a dream world, or world of illusion, which satisfies his basic requirements for living, but requires him to defend it against the incursions of reality in the form of facts not complying with his philosophy. His long battle to get other scientific disciplines to accept the facts of parapsychology has been mainly unproductive, but he forecasts that it must ultimately be successful or mankind is doomed.

McConnell, R. A.

Parapsychology in Retrospect: My Search for the Unicorn; Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh (1987, author); Index; 228p.

Self-published to permit the author to gauge and analyze the circulation and response to the volume, this is an important positive contribution to the advancement of parapsychology.

Chapter 1 is autobiographical; Chapter 2 outlines the exploration of scientific opinion on the subject based on circulation of 4800 books to 60 countries; Chapter 3 gives specific instances of reactions to the subject by two scientists; Chapter 4 details experiments in anomalous fall of dice; Chapter 5 describes experiences with the public, with psychics, and with the clergy; Chapter 6 outlines the possibility of psychokinesis affecting ordinary scientific research; and Chapter 7 explores self-psychokinesis.

The second part of the book is devoted to the effects of active hostility to parapsychology on the part of stage magicians and others who have a vested interest in skepticism. Chapter 8 outlines editorial selectivity and censorship; Chapter 9 is devoted to books in review; Chapter 10 describes the unjust administration of research funds; Chapter 11 is devoted to the unfounded accusations against Dr. J. B. Rhine in connection with the exposure of W. J. Levy's fraudulent research reports; Chapter 12 describes the activities of the skeptical associations and their biased views; and Chapter 13 summarizes the author's pessimistic views of the world situation and its unlikelihood of mankind surviving into the 21st Century.

Although I am not so pessimistic as the author, I do share his concern at the difficulties of changing the views of people who are ignorant of the facts of parapsychology. All through my life I have admired and respected the pioneers of psychical research and of science fiction, and it is a joy to me to see both of these subjects achieving an academic respectability undreamed of when I first became convinced of their value.

I expect to obtain and read the author's other books.

McConnell, Stanley

A World on Gold Rations; Toronto, Commonwealth Publishers Limited, 1931 96p.

The author blames dependence on the gold standard for the depression, and denounces the use of interest as usury.

He would have the money supply equal the value of gross national product and be available to everyone in proportion to his contribution. All should work or contribute to production in order to share the wealth.

This is pretty closely in line with the current talk of using Special Drawing Rights (SDR's) for international currency settlements; the IMF supervising and basing each country's proportion on its ability to produce.

Although well-written, the ideas expressed could have been outlined more concisely. The author does explain how governments allowed money to be controlled by the banks instead of controlling it themselves, thus selling the birth-right of the people for a mess of pottage. Instead of labor and service controlling the amount of money, money controls labor and services. Since the institution of interest, money grows out of proportion to the goods and services produced; instead of representing these, it represents itself in terms of gold and availability, thus causing inflation.

The concept is pretty close to social credit, and in many ways was what the CCF tried to do in Saskatchewan by the co-operative movement. The folly of depending on gold for settlement of international debts was explained by the fact that France and the U. S. had the lion's share of gold, and raised tariff barriers against payment in kind so that their own internal industries would be protected. Thus, the debtor countries simply could not pay the debts in gold or in produce, and the U. S. and France were impoverished along with the rest of the world.

McCourt, Edward A.

The Canadian West in Fiction; Toronto, The Ryerson Press;
(April, 1949); Bibliography; Index 131p.

The author does not believe that an adequate novel has yet been written to describe the Canadian West, but he has praise for Alexander Begg, Joseph Edmund Collins, "Ralph Connor", Frederick Niven, Frederick Philip Grove, Nellie McClung, Robert J. C. Stead, Arthur Stringer, Laura Goodman Salverson, Sinclair Ross, W. O. Mitchell, and Christine van der Mark.

Although I have read books by the majority of these writers, I am not sufficiently familiar with this literature to give it a final appraisal; and only Grove has greatly impressed me.

This book should be retained for reference, however, to guide me to the best books by these writers.

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Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 0Y9
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McCourt, Edward A.

The Canadian West in Fiction; Toronto, The Ryerson Press
(1970, McCourt); Revised Edition April, 1970; 1st 3-49); Index
128p.

McCourt points out that early western writings were by explorers and missionaries; there was little time for fiction. His first detailed account is of Ralph Connor, whom he describes as an idealistic booster whose heroines portrayed his mother, Margaret Robertson, in various guises, and whose heroes were inclined to settle arguments with their fists rather than their brains. He appraises Connor's work as genuine and sincere in its early stages, but too consciously literary after Connor began to feel that he had to bolster a literary reputation.

Frederick Niven's most important novel is "Justice of the Peace". "The Flying Years", "Mine Inheritance", and "The Transplanted" are a trilogy in which he attempted to detail the entire history of the early west. Soundly based on historical fact, they detail too minutely the events, and are weak in character and significance for importance as literary works. Niven also wrote popular novels, and is more at home in his native Scotland.

Frederick Philip Grove is described as probably the most significant student of the western farmer and his land. Rudy Wiebe; Laura Goodman Salverson; Vera Lysenko; and Adele Wiseman are examples of ethnic novelists.

Nellie McClung, Arthur Stringer, Robert J. C. Stead, Sinclair Ross, W. O. Mitchell and Margaret Laurence portray limited segments of western life; and Gabrielle Roy and Martha Ostenso are mentioned as contributing. McCourt emphasises that Winnipeg has been the home of more important novelists than any other Canadian city.

McCoy, Horace

I Should Have Stayed Home; New York, Alfred A. Knopf,
1938 (1938, McCoy) 235p.

This is told in the first person by a southern amateur actor who goes to Hollywood for a screen test, is rejected, but stays, determined to become a star because he has told his mother in letters that he is a success and can't face the ridicule of returning with an admission of failure.

An aspiring actress shares her bungalow with him on a platonic basis, likes him, but uses a "lonely hearts" ad to get a husband when she is blackballed from the studios for her union organization activities. The amateur is picked up by a nymphomaniac who is wealthy enough to buy her lovers, and who has sufficient influence to sway careers. An orphan girl befriended by the two young people is arrested for shoplifting, released by a judge who seeks publicity as a humanist, but taken back and sentenced to penitentiary from which she escapes, but commits suicide because she has been befriended and protected by the young couple who get into trouble for aiding her.

The amateur is made to face up to reality when he receives a letter from his mother saying that a friend has married the amateur's former girlfriend and is going to Hollywood on honeymoon. Having lost everything, even the nympho to a writer who caters to her in return for wealth, the amateur, he wanders away, thinking that a chance to be successful might even then crop up. The desire for success is paramount, even in the face of utter failure.

This appears to be a true picture of Hollywood in the midst of the depression; franker than most books. It is a warning to youth to avoid the lure of glamour.

McCoy, Horace

No Pockets in a Shroud; London, Arthur Barker Ltd.,
(1937) 307p.

Mike Dolan is a reporter rebelling against the control of the press by moneyed interests, and the muzzling of news relating to important people, and quits before he can be fired when he protests against the editor's failure to use a story he has written.

He borrows money from a homosexual to start a magazine of 2000 circulation, and gradually builds it by telling the truth about events in his city. After exposing an abortionist, he gets a line on the Crusaders who are an organization of influential people following along the lines of the old Ku Klux Klan and oppressing people who offend against their decrees. He is about to produce evidence against them in the mutilation of a man which he has witnessed, when he is waylaid in a dark alley and murdered.

The book ends with a warning to the American people to insist on their constitutional rights.

Quick-moving, but not well written, this is an example of material along the lines of Hammett and Chandler, but with a reporter instead of a private eye as the protagonist.

McCoy, Horace

Scalpel; New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc. (1952,
McCoy) 373p.

Having been favorably impressed with McCoy's Hollywood novel I Should Have Stayed Home, I found this slower going, but it is still an interesting story about a coal-mining family and the determination of two sons to get educations as their father had wished, and to stay above ground and to succeed professionally.

The older brother, a fink, hated by the younger, becomes an engineer, but aiming at a high standard of living, makes graft and shoddy materials a means to this end, and is responsible for a mine cavein disaster. The younger, and his mother who helps neighbors to the best of her resources, are blamed, ostracized, and the mother is forced to leave, despite her record of good works. The younger brother, who is narrator of the story, has returned from the second world war a Colonel of the medical corps, with a superb record of work done near the front battle lines, but considers himself a hack doctor who can succeed financially only with the help of his old boss's heiress daughter, who has been thrice married and has bought off three husbands at a cost of half a million each. She is a woman of the world, enters into a liason with him and becomes engaged to him, but he falls in love with his scrub nurse and calls off the engagement because he feels passionately in love with the nurse and not with the woman.

At the conclusion of the book, after he has learned that he is an expert surgeon with genius, he calls off the marriage with the nurse and marries the heiress, accepting a call to become professor of surgery at Harvard, his income reducing from \$100,000 a year to \$12,000.

This society doctor, who aimed only at financial success, learns that social patients are catered to for their money, and that a doctor's mission in life should aim at healing and not financial success. His cavalier treatment of women, though selective, seems promiscuous; and he appears to have no compunction about concluding such relationships at whim.

He pays tribute to the Grahams' Queer People, which I think probably influenced the earlier novel I read.

New York, New American Library (Signet #1771), (May, 1960) Abridgment copyright publishers 256p.

Since the paperback is abridged, the first edition is preferred.

McCoy, Horace

They Shoot Horses, Don't They? A Novel; Screenplay by Robert E. Thompson; Foreword to Screenplay by Sydney Pollack New York, Avon Books (#N250); (1935, McCoy), (2nd ptg., December, 1969; 1st, Feb., 1966) 319p.

As a presentation of this hopeless outlook of so many people during the great depression, this story of a girl who failed to commit suicide and begged a young man to kill her is very effective.

The scene is a dance marathon held in Hollywood and the characters are the conductors of the marathon and the contestants and a few of the viewers. McCoy lends authenticity to the scene by naming stars and celebrities who attended, and portrays the showmanship and problems of the event.

The screenplay is less effective, in my opinion, but it may have been necessary to alter the story of the book for viewing by theater audiences.

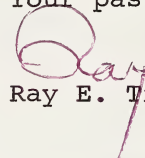
This certainly confirms my opinion of McCoy as a talent distinctive and perceptive in his presentation of life.

January 3, 1981

2....

May we all enter this venture with a spirit of praise for our Lord, dedicating our effort to him for the upbuilding of his Church.

Your pastor,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Ray", with a long vertical stroke extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Ray E. Trotter

McDonald, N. C.

Fish the Strong Waters; with a Foreword by Richard Bissell; New York, Ballantine Books (1956); Afterword 184p. Paperback issued simultaneously (#175, 35¢)

This is not primarily a fantasy, but a realistic story of a tugboat captain on the west coast who established a fishing trap for salmon and became the inheritor of the responsibility of caring for the Indians when the trading post operator, a friend of his, died. It is a good story, and based on the author's experience.

Its interest to a fantasy collection arises solely because of Halibut Mary, princess of a native tribe who is a medium. Her character and powers agree with those of other similarly-endowed mediums, and she is treated as they are, with suspicion, but with recognition of their special powers. The author describes events which can be acknowledged only on the possibility of clairvoyance and telepathy, and in some cases prevision. There are hints of power over the physical aspects of nature, also, and this book should be retained for reference in connection with any study of mediums, fictional or actual.

McDougall, William

Body and Mind: A History and a Defense of Animism, with 13 diagrams; Preface by Jerome S. Bruner; Boston, Beacon Press (1961) (1911, Methuen & Co., Ltd., London); Index 384p.

I have read several books on the mind-body problem, but this is probably the most lucid and detailed examination of the philosophic and psychological ideas leading the author to accept the animistic hypothesis. His short chapter on psychical research is probably the only one I understood thoroughly; my lack of technical education deprived me of understanding most of the text. I am glad I spent days reading the book because I can use it as a reference; the gist of the arguments is clear to me.

I am acquainted with several people whose minds work faster than mine, so I do not wonder at the scope of knowledge displayed by McDougall. I agree with his conclusion, and with his caution that our ignorance is greater than our knowledge of the mind.

Chester D. Cuthbert
September 28, 2000



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MANITOBA

McGehean, George, and McGehean, Lois

True Spirit Return; Cincinnati, Ohio, Spiritualist Publishing Co.; (1922, authors; Frontispiece portrait 286p.

Apparently written by Lois, this book advocates the belief in spirit return and communication. The author appears to have been a missionary in China. Whether the authors are brother and sister or husband and wife is not stated.

The early part of the book praises spiritualism; the bulk of the text is a retelling of famous Bible stories which give instances of spirit return, miraculous healing, prophecy, and other psychic phenomena.

Towards the end of the book, there is contradiction of Judge Rutherford's view that immortality of the soul does not exist. Two pages from a copy of AWAKE the Jehovah's Witnesses publication were excerpted and placed in the book.

Self-published by a convinced spiritualist, this book is quite sincere in its convictions, but propaganda for the cause. I was familiar with the Bible stories, but they refreshed my memory and are reasonably well told.

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FirstCity Trust

McGrath, Rt. Rev. Wm. C.

Fatima or World Suicide; Scarboro Bluffs, Ontario, The
Scarboro Foreign Mission Society (1950) 94p.

This is the story of Lucia de Jesus dos Santos and her cousins Francisco 8 and Jacinta 6, shepherds who saw the Holy Mother as a girl of sixteen in a vision of light. The vision promised to come again on the 13th of the following month, did so, and monthly thereafter for awhile manifested to crowds of up to 70,000 people.

The Church authorities kept the visions from being publicized, and they were mainly a local phenomenon. The Vision foretold the early deaths of Francisco and Jacinta, which came to pass, and Lucia entered a convent.

The principle prophecy was that Christ would not withhold his wrath from the people of Europe who would not follow his commands, and that Russia would spread Communism all over the world unless people turned again to the Church.

Because of the atomic bomb and the general laxity of moral values, the author felt that the doom of mankind was upon the human race, and exhorted people to follow the lead given by the Virgin at Fatima in Portugal.

McGregor, Dion

The Dream World of Dion McGregor; Drawings by Edward Gorey; Published by Bernard Geis Associates; Distributed by Random House (1964, Dion McGregor) 213p.

These are alleged to be tape-recorded dreams of a man who talks in his sleep, and the book bears in Introduction by Valentine Wolf Zetlin, M.D., New York City. Although the transcriptions make some sense (in fact more sense than the talking should if the allegations are correct), the trivia are meaningless without application to the "real" life of the dreamer. I gave up trying to read the book after the first sixty pages, even though it is possible that this book may have importance to the student of dreams.

McGuire, Paul

Enter Three Witches; New York, William Morrow & Co.,
1940, (1940, Author) 280p.

A mildly entertaining and well written murder mystery,
with Rome the locale.

A writer and newspaper correspondent sees an attractive girl on the Spanish Steps, and is later invited as a house guest to a villa where she is also a guest. He learns that she is seeking information concerning the disappearance or death of her father; that her stepbrother is also a guest of his mother; and that a Spanish writer of short stories who has her father's baggage is there under a Greek name.

Suspicion falls on most guests, and the denouement is a surprise even to the protagonist.

Apart from the presentation of the plot, there is no importance to this book.

Lost Island: An Adventure; Toronto, Macmillan, 1954;
230pp.

A Canadian meteorologist survives the crash of a flying weather laboratory, and finds himself on an island which Sir Francis Drake had located, but which had never been found by any subsequent navigator. It is inhabited only by an old sailor and his daughter. Ryan learns that the sailor had married a girl, disguised as a boy, when they were marooned through failure to get back to Drake's ship before it sailed. The sailor and his daughter had found a "fountain of youth", or, rather, waters which kept them at the age they were when they started taking them. Ryan's wife, a tramp, had taken a lover the night she learned of the disappearance of his aircraft; the lover witnesses the explosive disappearance of the island when the sailor's daughter, with child by Ryan, throws herself into a volcano, thus causing it to explode.

Immortality has brought blindness to the sailor and his daughter, and would ultimately bring it to Ryan, too. Ryan tries unsuccessfully to persuade Margaret that he can assist her to understand the modern world, but she, knowing that her idyllic existence must be ended by the invasion of civilized forces, chooses suicide.

A slow start is later improved, but this story is much too long and detailed for the amount of incident and action narrated. As a first novel, it is well written, and fairly good.

Reprinted Signet 1955 191p.

McIntyre, Margaret A.

The Cave Boy of the Age of Stone; London, Bombay, Sydney,
George G. Harrap & Co. Ltd.; Illustrated; New and Revised Edition published July, 1931 (December, 1907) 128p.

This tells for children the results of investigations into early man in France, and outlines the daily life of children of the stone age, with primitive weapons, hunting and fishing, the making of fire, and other elements. Lions and tigers are said to be present with other animals more germane to the locale, and there is some doubt in my mind of the authenticity of these in context, but as a children's book it is quite good.

McKenna, Stephen

Beyond Hell; Toronto, Dodd, Mead & Company (Canda)^a Limited
(1932, Publishers) 327p.

In the year 1940 a penal colony is established on Sunday Island where murderers are segregated from the rest of the world in hopes that they may form a reformed society and gain peace and happiness for the rest of their lives.

The Governor uses force and even torture by flogging to stop any transgressions, but admits that human nature is difficult to control and that he must have brothels for his garrison, though he punishes the owners of illicit stills. Polynesian girls are imported for the brothels and the money they earn provides the means for them later to marry.

Following the brutal flogging of a degenerate rebel, the governor is murdered and the garrison and prisoners take control. In the story, narrated by a professor of political science who is in the island at the request of the President of the United States to report on the colony, but who has a convicted murderer there, a young friend accused of killing a sensualist who has made the young man's girlfriend his mistress, the girl being the professor's ward and secretary who accompanies him, as a personal motive, is urged by the leaders of the rebellion to assume command because of his expertise.

This is future fiction portraying the problems of sociology seriously, and is intelligently written.

Chester D. Cuthbert
August 10, 1996

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McKenna, Stephen

The Oldest God: A Novel; London, Thornton Butterworth
Limited; (February, 1926, 2nd Impr., March, 1926) 350p.
Boston, Little, Brown, and Company, 1926; (1926, author)
(Reprinted, February, 1926) 353p.

A wealthy American woman buys a castle in England and seeks to establish herself socially by being hostess to celebrities. Invited for the Christmas season with his wife and some friends, the narrator discovers that a Stranger who accompanies a drunken sensualist has a cloven hoof instead of a foot, and that many of the guests manifest abandonment of sexual decorum after he arrives. The theme of the novel contrasts Christian morality with pagan sexual freedom which as with animals follows nature.

Not until nearly halfway through this novel does the fantasy element dominate, after which it ceases to be boring.

This is a serious treatment of the theme and provides food for thought. Has Pan appeared in the guise of a man to cause the dismissal of restraint?

Chester D. Cuthbert
August 10, 1996

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McKenna, Stephen

The Sixth Sense; New York, George H. Doran Company (1921,
Publishers) 287p.

Returning to London ~~xxx~~ after twenty years in foreign countries, Toby Merivale discovers that his niece Gladys is no longer a child and is temporarily placed in charge of her. He has admired books by a reclusive author for years, and because of a psychic insight at a theater, a friend Aintree discloses himself as the author, but says that the third book of a trilogy will never be published although he allows Toby to read it chapter by chapter as it is being written.

Aintree is hopelessly in love with a strong-willed suffragette who cuts him as a friend because Aintree insists on being a friend to a woman, innocent but divorced as a matter of convenience, and is seen with her often publicly.

Because a politician friend is backing a bill to forbid publication of a suffragette paper, the suffragettes kidnap children and a sister in the politician's family. The health of the strong-willed girl breaks down under these pressures, and because she is suspected of connivance in the kidnappings she flees to Aintree who protects her from arrest. In the meantime, the sister who has been kidnapped cannot be found until Aintree uses his psychic sensitivity to locate and free her from captivity. The strain causes his health to suffer, but the girl realizes her mistake and love conquers prejudice.

The psychic, in common with all his kind, is unable to explain his faculty to anyone, so Toby and others are baffled and doubtful of his actions until they are justified by results.

(I may have confused the girls in the third paragraph above; this is a "society" novel, most of which I detest because of the artificial values of the elite, so the characters and their actions convey little to me. CDC)

Aintree is a type of psychic, shy and reclusive because of his sensitivity, Which I have personally encountered, and who cannot be distinguished from any casual acquaintance. Only his faculty, not yet officially recognized by orthodox science, makes this novel a fantasy.

Chester D. Cuthbert
August 10, 1996

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McKenzie, J. Hewat

Spirit Intercourse: Its Theory and Practice; London, Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton Kent & Co. Ltd. (8th thousand, August, 1916; Illustrated 234p.

The author was one of the leading spiritualists in England and this book describes his belief that the spirit of William James communicated information about seven spheres of existence above the earth constituting the afterlive.

Whether spiritualists accepted this I do not know, but the author was remembered mainly because he insisted that Houdini was assisted by spirits and was a medium even though Houdini declared that he used only magicians' trickery.

I believe that important mediums respected McKenzie.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 2, 2003

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McMorrow, Thomas

Out of the Deep Sea (The Popular Magazine, February 20, 1923, pp.106,118)

This is an adventure story involving the discovery of a prehistoric sea monster. As in Merritt's Moon Pool story, it is alleged to be the popular account of the discovery, and that the scientific presentation of the discovery is published in a scientific journal.

McNeil, Everett

The Lost Nation; Illustrations by Hugh Spencer; New York, E. P. Dutton & Co. (1st ptg Oct., 1918; 2nd ptg Dec., 1926) 335p.

Dust jacket blurb: "Among boys Everett McNeil is well-known and popular as the author of thrilling adventure stories. The Lost Nation is one of the best and most exciting yarns he has ever written. Moreover, it introduces characters we have already known and liked in The Hermit of the Culebra Mountains and The Lost Treasure Cave.

Through the finding and piecing together of the two halves of a golden cartouch bearing an inscription relative to a forgotten civilization, the two boy heroes and their friend, the professor, are led through a maze of bewildering experiences in an effort to re-discover the lost nation and its peoples.

The trail leads through the ruins of the ancient Devil City and weird underground passages to the summit of the Great Pyramid where dwelt the last of the declining race of Toltecs."

Though somewhat repetitiously written, this is a good juvenile "lost race" adventure novel: the incidents unusual and interesting, and the fantasy element principally the fulfilment of prophecies concerning events to happen as the Toltec race dies. The hero, Professor Kendal, ultimately marries that last survivor of the Toltecs Exitl after saving her from a gigantic man-ape who desired her as mate.

Several of the imaginary features of the great lost city of the Toltecs invite comparison with science fiction prophecies of future cities.

McQuaig, Linda

Behind Closed Doors: How the Rich Won Control of Canada's Tax System...and Ended Up Richer, Markham, Ontario, Penguin Books Canada Limited (1987) 353p.

I am happy to have read this book. It confirms the conclusions I reached shortly after I took early retirement from the insurance business in 1965.

I do not recall what qualifications the author has for writing this book, but it appears to be authoritative, and it discloses inside information about how the tax system is used to benefit capital and punish labor. This was made obvious to everyone, of course, when the Mulroney government budget offered a lifetime exemption on capital gains of \$500,000; but no exemption was granted labor on its first \$500,000 of earnings. The loopholes in the tax system available to the controllers of capital are, of course, not available to labor, which is kept at a subsistence level of income, and consequently does not have the savings or capital to make use of them.

My impressions of McEachen were different from those I gather from this book, and I'm pleased to be corrected. Also, I agree with the author that the recommendations of the Carter report--"a buck is a buck"--and all income from whatever source should be taxed progressively, should have been implemented.

My decision to take advantage of the system and let it work for me was the only reasonable decision to make, and I cannot blame others who do the same. I do, however, continue to urge everyone I know to advocate the institution of a Guaranteed Annual Income so that poverty in Canada will be eliminated, and so that the unfair burden on workers will be alleviated. I'm reasonably sure that the workers will be the main agitators for a GAI because there are already too few workers to support the huge armies of unemployed, old age pensioners, and children and disabled. There is no possibility of job security while our technology continues to improve, and labor will be forced to agree to allow the machine to do the work and provide the income to implement the GAI.

Such colossal blunders as the Scientific Research Tax Credit, and such double-speak as the propaganda promoted to pull the wool over the eyes of taxpayers should be indefensible. If we cannot trust our democratically elected representatives to serve the interests of the nation as they should, it leaves every citizen in the situation of "every man for himself". This isn't bad for those capable of standing on their own feet, but it leaves the poor, the sick and the aged helpless.

Chester D. Cuthbert
March 22, 1988.

McQuaig, Linda

The Cult of Impotence: Selling the Myth of Powerlessness in the Global Economy; Toronto, , Viking (1998, author); Notes Acknowledgments; Index 313p.

I had previously read only Behind Closed Doors by this author, but found myself totally in agreement with her overall view that the rich control the Canadian tax system.

This fifth book of hers continues to expose how capital influences control of the world economy and unless curbed will continue to favor the rich and punish the workers and the poor. She backs the Tobin tax as a means of tracking international movements of capital and as a small tax on huge amounts to replace the onerous taxes on citizens.

My own experience confirms her diagnosis.

She supports a return to Keynesian economics which showed how employment and high wages could increase revenues enough to overcome the deficits incurred by governments to increase employment.

Although she mentions Jeremy Rifkin's The End of Work, it seems to me that she has not understood the "economy of abundance" on which his ideas are based. She fails to realize that the increasing efficiency of technology means that human labor is less necessary, and that the mass layoffs and downsizing of organizations means that work is not available now to bring income to workers and that only the establishment by governments of a universal Guaranteed Annual Income adequate to support all citizens will enable society to avoid continual strife between capital and labor.

She does not realize that only the illusion that money is wealth gives capital the power it possesses. Neither monetarism nor Keynesian can nullify the power of technology and its ability to produce wealth limited only by the limitations of natural resources which cannot be renewed. As Technocracy taught, simple fair distribution of this wealth on an engineering basis needs attention; the profit system is doomed by abundance.

This book is extremely well written and documents its theme well, but it deals only with orthodox economic theories and the Keynesian solution is no longer capable of dealing with modern reality.

Chester D. Cuthbert
July 3, 1998

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(204) 831-7777

C E L E B R A T I N G
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
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FirstCity Trust

McWilliams, Vera

Lafcadio Hearn; Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1946 (1946
Author); Bibliography; Index 465p.

Very well-written, this biography was probably the best that could have been written on the basis of the information available to researchers when it was published.

The index makes unnecessary detailed notes, so I will merely say that Hearn's phenomenal memory and instinctive appraisal of his material, together with his painstaking work in writing and re-writing, and his ability to concentrate to the exclusion of mundane affairs, must account for the value of his books.

January 3, 1981

2....

May we all enter this venture with a spirit of praise for our Lord, dedicating our effort to him for the upbuilding of his Church.

Your pastor,



Ray E. Trotter

M'Donald, W.

Spiritualism Identical with Ancient Sorcery, New Testament Demonology, and Modern Witchcraft, with the Testimony of God and Man Against It; New York, Carlton & Porter, 1866 212p.

Copyright by the publisher, this book was commissioned by the Providence District Ministers' Association, and the title is a sufficient description of its contents. Mainly compared with the authority of the Bible, it exposes spiritualism as a revival of evil spirits and subversive of Christianity.

There are many useful Biblical references, and there is no attempt to appraise scientifically the phenomena outlined.

Mattison's book is mentioned, and with approval.

Acceptance of the phenomena is pretty much in line with the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church: avoid contact.

Coalition for Reproductive Choice,
Box 51, Station "L",
Winnipeg, Man.
R3H 0Z4.

Dear Choice Supporter:

You are invited to a Choice Celebration. We will celebrate the first anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision recognizing a woman's right to reproductive freedom. We will honour Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who fought with us to win this right.

A Choice Celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 1989, at the International Inn. A presentation to Dr. Morgentaler will be made at 8:00 p.m. Wine and cheese will be served.

We hope to accomplish two goals from this event. First, we intend to develop resources to lobby the Federal Government regarding the introduction of any restrictive legislation on abortion. We need the voice of Manitobans to be heard. We have a critical role to play in the upcoming debate.

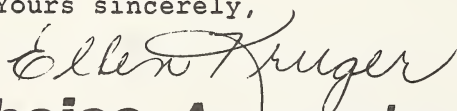
Second, we want to mount a legal challenge to the Provincial Government's decision to refuse to pay for abortions outside of hospitals. We know that abortions in approved medical facilities such as community health clinics are safer and less costly. We believe the government is acting unethically, perhaps unconstitutionally.

Tickets for this Choice Celebration are available at a cost of \$25.00. Larger donations are welcomed. Benefactors, who contribute \$200.00 and over and donors (\$100.00 - \$199.00) will be acknowledged in the evening's program.

Tickets can be purchased at Bold Print, 478-A River Avenue, the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, 16 - 222 Osborne Street, Times Change Restaurant on Main and St. Mary's, or the National Council of Jewish Women at the Gwen Selter Creative Living Centre, 1588 Main Street. Reservations will be accepted by mail at the Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Please join us, to celebrate our past victory, to honour Dr. Morgentaler, and to help ensure that our right to reproductive choice will be retained.

Yours sincerely,



Choice A campaign for reproductive freedom

Mead, Shepherd

The Magnificent MacInnes; New York, Farrar, Straus and Company, 1949 255p.

(Published in paperback as "The Sex Machine", Better Publications of Canada, , Ltd. (Popular Library #228) 160p.

A poll supervisor when checking on the results submitted by a girl poll-taker discovers that she has faked the survey and simply placed her uncle's opinion. He is psychically in touch with people and knows their wishes, and his results are directly in line with those shown by poll sampling. Knowing that the American public and businesses will never accept anything obtained by mental means, they get a war surplus machine and pretend that it is obtaining the data for them, when the girl's uncle is actually using the indicator on the machine to register his own opinion.

This is a good, light humorous novel, with much shrewd comment on advertising agency practice. Its moral is that if pollsters carry their work to a logical conclusion, there will ultimately be no original thinking or advances because the producers of TV, Radio, Newspaper, Literary and other artistic material will simply strive to give the public what it asks for; and it will never ask for anything unfamiliar to it.

Mead, Shepherd

The Sex Machine; Better Publications of Canada, Ltd.;
(Popular Library #228) 160p.
(Pocket book title of "The Magnificent MacInnes")

The Brotherhood of the Seven Kings; Illustrated by Sidney Paget; London, Ward, Lock & Co., Limited, no date 373p.

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This is an episodic novel relating adventures and mysteries associated with the struggle between Madam Katherine Koluchy and Norman Head, who had fallen in love with her ten years previously and had suffered when he learned that she was the head of a secret society known by the title name.

Narrated by Head, some of these episodes involve medical or biological elements possibly sufficient to bring them into the category of science fiction, but only marginally. There is little of fantasy apart from the manner of application of scientific knowledge to the menaces or plots, the development of which does not support the supposition that either the villainess or the protagonist is intelligent enough to maintain the exalted status attributed them by the author.

An early example of scientific mystery and detection fiction, its importance is historical rather than literary. I do not consider that any of the episodes merit reprinting.

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2. Ought He to Marry Her?	42*
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8. The Man Who Smiled	271*

In most cases these might be termed medical mysteries, but there is sufficient in those asterisked of either science or fantasy elements to place them in the fantasy field. All stories are told in the first person as by Paul Gilchrist.

(1) While experimenting with ferrocyanide of potassium he evolved anhydrous hydrocyanic acid, a poison which he thinks later has been used to kill an affianced bridegroom; this is not so, the man having been otherwise poisoned by an East Indian servant anxious to recover a large diamond which provides the story's title. ~~X~~ X-rays are used to discover the jewel, swallowed by the Indian. (2) Hereditary insanity in mother and daughter are alleviated by biologically obtained animal extracts. (3) involves a plot to swindle a woman by making her believe that her own baby has died and that she is making her husband happy by bringing up as a substitute her own son as heir. (4) traces a murderer by finding traces of sleeping sickness in his blood. (5) a villain tries to marry a girl without disclosing to her that he is a leper. (6) is the prime example of a weakness common to several of the stories: the title and the room it designates have almost nothing to do with the main theme of the story, in this case, the mesmeric influence of a woman on a young girl, and a rapport between the woman and Gilchrist who is also a hypnotist with almost clairvoyant power, strong enough the Gilchrist sees and speaks with her in a sitting room beyond one of the panelled doors, though she is not in the room. This is the most strongly fantastic of all the stories. (7) involves a plot to steal from Gilchrist his formula for a new explosive, by poisoning him, then imprisoning him on a plank suspended by a balloon with an explosive set to be discharged by the rising sun. (8) is the story of a man who has a devilish smile and laugh brought on by falling from a horse, who marries but frightens his wife when he loses control of his constrained gloomy expression and expresses them. He is cured by the shock of injury from a tiger (or, possibly alternatively by a gas released from a hollow pearl, administered to him as a "last chance" cure of his nearly fatal injury).

This is probably the most interesting of the author's fantasy collections. Stories 6 & 8 are the most interesting.

Means, E. K.

E. K. Means; Illustrated by E. W. Kemble; Toronto, Frederick
D. Goodchild (1918, author) 385p.

I had enjoyed greatly as a boy these negro short stories as published in the Munsey magazines, so decided to reread them when I came across the books while sorting.

The dialogue surprised me because of the use by negroes of "nigger" when referring to themselves pretty much as a brotherhood and even when in company with the white masters. After all these years, some of the characters seemed familiar and the portrayal of negro life certified Means as authoritative.

In this volume the stories which interested me most were Hoo-doo Eyes about hypnotism and Monarch of the Manacle about escaping from locks, which may have influenced Houdini or have been inspired by him. But all the stories held my attention.

I sold a better copy of this book to Gary Nerman for \$10.00.

Chester D. Cuthbert
March 24, 2002



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MANITOBA

Means, E. K.

Further E. K. Means; Illustrated by E. W. Kemble; New York
and London, G. P. Putnam's Sons (1921, author) 346p.

This third volume of Louisiana negro stories carries on the hilarious dialect which characterized the first book, but does not use convincing incidents. My copy of this book is an Air Force library copy in fairly good condition, but does not seem to have been read often.

The Hen Scratch saloon and the Shoofly church, the Gaitskill residence, the village Tickfall and all the characters excepting visitors from outside make the stories familiar. The author portrays his characters with human faults, but is often contradictory about details of the plots.

I enjoyed the first book more than this one.

Chester D. Cuthbert
March 30, 2002

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Meischke-Smith, W. (M.Sc.)

The sloping Line London, Thornton Butterworth Limited;
(1926); Index 127p.

Under various headings, this book supplies short essays to indicate an advancing line of evolution towards immortality.

The author considers that the future must be inevitable because all events arise out of pre-existing conditions. He is a fatalist.

I do not disagree with anything said in this book, but it offers no original thinking.

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Mello, A. Da Silva

Mysteries and Realities of This World and the Next; Translated from the Portugese by M. B. Fierz; published in Brazil in 1950; London, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, (1960, author) 494p.

Because he gives no details of his sources and provides no index, the author disclaims any scientific value to this book, but he was a Brazilian doctor who travelled and read widely, and investigated personally many spiritualistic mediums. His own investigations were disappointing and probably influenced him to be sceptical of all alleged phenomena, and he alleges that even D. D. Home admitted to fraudulently using spiritualist causes of his phenomena.

Taken by itself, this book is sufficient to persuade people against investigating parapsychology. Yet the author accepts many hypnotic phenomena and devotes a large part of the book to surveying the subject. The main fault of the book, however, is that he fails to credit any of the proven cases of genuine phenomena and genuine mediums.

As a cautionary warning and an exposition of fraudulent practices, this book has great value. But the author's bias is too evident for complete acceptance.

Chester D. Cuthbert
September 4, 2003



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MANITOBA

Men Only

Symposium.

A Stag Party with Men Only: Illustrated; London, George
Newnes Limited (1955) 174p.

The articles and stories in this sampler are of more interest to Britishers than others, but are well-written and worthwhile. None of them touches any of my special interests and I found the most attractive feature of the book to be two color reproductions of paintings facing pages 80 and 96.

Newman's narrative of an assassination plot against Churchill and Glendenning's account of the training and presentations of a sports announcer are probably the most important; but I found the articles by Jean Qui Rit and William Douglas Home more appealing.

Interesting, but unimportant.

Menen, Aubrey

	The Prevalence of Witches; London, Chatto & Windus,	271p.
1947	New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1949	250p.
	Penguin Books (1957) (#1215)	216p.

This satiric novel tells of three people who try to save a man convicted in the remote village of Limbo, India, of witchcraft, and involves a discussion of politics, the fakes of a swami, the reality of fire-eating and religious belief, and the ultimate difficulty of arriving at truth.

Although the situations involving the characters do bring out the highlights of their functions and beliefs, I did not particularly like the book. It has points of humor and philosophy, but insufficient plot and action.

Mercier, Charles A.

Spiritualism and Sir Oliver Lodge; London, Watts & Co.
(no date, Circa 1920) 132p.

This is a very sceptical examination of The Survival of Man and Raymond, accusing Sir Oliver Lodge of credulous acceptance of spiritualistic phenomena and an inability to use scientific criteria outside of his own specialty of electrical phenomena.

Although Mercier admits that he has not examined the phenomena of psychical research, he claims authority for the phenomena of witchcraft and in the last chapter expressly says that witches have been exemplified by modern mediums and that the evidence for witchcraft is far superior to that for telepathy and other psychical phenomena.

Mercier sets forth an almost impossibly high standard of critical examination of the evidence, but this book is useful as a cautionary guide to those who accept authority like Sir Oliver's, rather than the evidence itself.

I am satisfied that there are on record instances of psychic phenomena which prove their existence independently of the testimony of witnesses; but I admit that I would accept the testimony of experts rather than my own. Mercier claims that only the testimony of conjurers is relevant, and doubts the qualifications of other investigators.

Meredith, James Creed

The Rainbow in the Valley; Dublin, Browne and Nolan
Limited, 1939; Index 258p.

This book is primarily a group of discussions of general subjects by scientists in a valley in China who have established radio communication with Mars. The Martians are said to be quite similar to humans, but have been at peace for ten thousand years. Their population is much smaller than earth's and consequently has not advanced as rapidly, but their views are used as a corrective to those of the people conversing.

Much space is devoted to the simple problem of reaching intelligent communication; then the subjects range from evolution, the interpretation of dreams, philosophy, peace, the problems of international politics, the national characteristics of humor, to the council of wise men who rule Mars, and the Martian religion, which appears to be an ideal Christianity.

Although the book is provided with an index, this is not exhaustive, and many of the references are not worth perusing. I gather that this book was published at the author's expense, and I doubt that his views achieved any great audience.

"A Martian Examines Christianity" by Arthur Levett is a similar book - primarily non-fiction but cast in the form of fiction so that the author could introduce an alien and allegedly impartial viewpoint to the problems under review.

I am rather surprised to note that this book is listed in Bleiler's "Checklist".

Galaxy of Ghouls; New York City, Lion Books (#LL25)
 (May, 1955), (1955, Merrill) 192p.

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I read all except (5) and (15) from this volume.

I do not consider any other stories to be of classic calibre, but Merrill's introductory comments are of interest.

for at least 20 years), you need a minimum of \$600,000 free and clear, and \$1,000,000 would be more like it.

Do you have this money now?

If you decide to work until retirement and you live 15 years after that -- you need \$450,000 to make sure you can live independent and free...to be certain you won't become dependent on the charity of others or become a ward of the government.

Do you have this money now?

If you become ill or disabled (and you have a wife and two children), it will take a minimum of \$350,000 to take care of them (and you) for the next 10 years.

Do you have this money now?

If you have two children you are planning to send to college -- say, starting in 1990 -- you need at least \$60,000 to see them through.

Do you have this money now?

The point I am making isn't complicated.

I assume you are responsible and that you are doing pretty well. My urgent message to you is this:

You must do much, much better if you are to enjoy your life and see to your responsibilities as you've planned.

How much better?

Only you know the truth. The arithmetic shouldn't take you long (you've probably already been doing it in your head as we've proceeded).

How much money do you really need?

A lot!

Only you know how much more money you really need. After all, you are the author of your dreams, your hopes, and your responsibilities. Only you know how much money you really need to be sure you get what you want.

But if on closer -- rigorously honest -- self-examination it does turn out that the money you really need is a lot more than you thought -- that leads to the linchpin question:

What are you going to do?

I'm sure you realize the key is accumulating more capital.

I'm sure you realize that it's your capital -- free and clear -- that is the crux of your financial destiny.

Human? New York City, Lion Books (#205), (April, 1954),
(1954, Merrill) 190p.

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I read all except (9) and (10) from this volume, but I do not consider any of the story selections to be of classic calibre.

Merril's introductory comments are of interest.

The answer is not working harder to make more money -- it's having your money working harder to accumulate more capital.

Let's face it. We live in a capitalist society. Money makes money (the key is having your capital make the most money possible commensurate with safety).

The question is: Are you prepared to do what is necessary to make your investments work as hard as they must to get you the capital you need?

I have a suggestion.

I suggest you subscribe to the Number 1 investment advisory in Canada, The MoneyLetter.

Why?

The best credential I can offer you about The MoneyLetter is that it is Canada's Number 1 investment advisory.

Why is The MoneyLetter Number 1? For the same reason you should subscribe to it. Performance.

Week after week, year after year, The MoneyLetter outdraws the competition. Why do more Canadian investors subscribe to The MoneyLetter than any other investment advisory? The MoneyLetter helps its subscribers make more money.

The MoneyLetter is Number 1 because tens of thousands of people like you who subscribe to it know that The MoneyLetter consistently helps them make money with their investments.

You need all the help you can get. These days, every investor does. Doesn't it make sense for you to get Canada's Number 1 investment advisory to see if it can help you do better with your investments?

Of course it does!

The enclosed leaflet bears full particulars on The MoneyLetter investment advisory for your perusal. Who the principals are, how they operate, what The MoneyLetter gives you, and all sorts of other salient specifics.

But if you read only one part of the leaflet -- I urge you to let it be the section bearing the testimonials from MoneyLetter subscribers praising its worth -- some often with intimate details of how The MoneyLetter has enabled them to prosper with their investments -- often beyond their wildest dreams.

The MoneyLetter is worth your consideration because it has an extraordinary "track record" of helping people like you make more money from their money and so accumulate the capital they need to succeed with their life's ambition.

Shadow on the Hearth; Garden City, New York, Doubleday
& Company, Inc., 1950 277p.

This is a detailed account of a few days in the life of a housewife after an atomic bomb attack on America. With a maid and two daughters, she is helped by a teacher of one of the girls who is under suspicion by the authorities, by the squad leader who is an admiring neighbor, and by the prepared instructions on mimeographed forms and by radio. The cutting of essential services, the danger from looters, the fear of radiation disease involving the two girls, the wondering what has happened to her older boy and her husband, are all brought out in realistic fashion, though the heroine Gladys Mitchell would certainly not be a model adopted by the believers in "women's lib".

Though much of the detail was tiresome to read, it did add to the verisimilitude of the story, and I found it quite interesting. Aside from the thematic background, this was not important as a science fiction story; but certainly as a warning of what might transpire in the event of an atomic war, it is a good example.

A much better detailed and thought-out story than "New Secret" by Lillian Beynon Thomas.

Merwin, Sam, Jr.

The House of Many Worlds; Garden City, New York, Doubleday
& Company, Inc., 1951; (1951, author) 216p.

Poet and feature writer Elspeth and photographer Mack find themselves appointed to investigate an alternate world under the direction of the Watchers whose head resides in a house remote from access which is a tangential point or multiple gateway to many variant branches of time.

Much of the story revolves around the conflict of personalities of the couple who are at the same time attracted to each other. Mack is something of a tomcat and finds an alien girl agent susceptible to a "fling". The villain portrays homosexual characteristics, but is a strong enemy spy.

My impression of the characters is that they were not capable of accomplishing their mission, though they do succeed. I was not so favorably impressed by this book and its sequel as David Blair apparently was.

Note: Originally published in Startling Stories, September, 1951 this story was reprinted as Galaxy Novel #12.

The sequel, originally entitled Journey to Miseneum in Startling Stories, August, 1953, was reprinted as Three Faces of Time in Ace Double #121. Information from David Blair (I did not check the magazine version).

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Killer to Come; New York, Abelard Press (1953) 251p.
(Galaxy Science Fiction Novel #22)

Hank, an ex-reporter who has won a Pulitzer prize, is doing research at a University where Dr. Conrad is writing a book about genius in which he propounds the hypothesis that time travelers possess exceptional individuals, thus making them geniuses temporarily. His studies show that many rated as geniuses do not exhibit the faculty very long.

Conrad is murdered, and Hank who is in love with an actress named Liza, is asked to review Conrad's notes and give his opinion about whether they are valid. After studying them, Hank agrees; consults with a poet who has known Conrad and who also agrees, and to whom he lends his coat, after which the poet is run down and killed by a car.

The Dean, whose wife Cora has had an affair with Conrad and whose argument with Conrad had shortly preceded Conrad's murder, consults Hank, then disappears. Cora and Hank find him through the help of a hooker named Mickey, and confront the bartender who has had the best opportunity to know what was going on from every angle. He admits being a time traveler, and says that a second is being trained to succeed him; Hank discovers that Liza, who has psychic powers, is the successor, but goes ahead with his plan to marry her, though somewhat regretful that he has not entered a liason with the fascinating Cora, a free lover.

Although dedicated to Fredric Brown, this novel is not up to Brown's standard. As a science fictional murder mystery, however, it may be one of the earliest to use the element of time travel, and the latter as an explanation of the temporary genius may have some value.

Merwin, Sam, Jr.

Three Faces of Time; New York, Ace Books, Inc. (#121); 135p.

This sequel to The House of Many Worlds takes the characters to ancient Rome and a world of Antique where they meet again the villain of the original story but are also involved with rulers of Rome. The action of the story is similar to that of the earlier story but poet and photographer are reconciled and accept each other after the alien girl is killed.

Whether the open nudity and sexual freedom of the Romans is accurately portrayed I do not know. That Elspeth surrenders her sexual favors to a repulsive person merely confirms what was expected of Russian female secret agents in modern history.

The Ace double prints also Andre Norton's The Stars are Ours!

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Merwin, Sam, Jr.

The White Widows; Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company
Inc., 1953; (1953, author) 224p.

His thesis on Haemophilia summarily rejected by one university, Larry Finlay submits it to Columbia but becoming involved as a murder suspect he is sheltered by a famous scientist who has become enormously fat as a defence against psychic women who are seeking by partenogenesis to eliminate the necessity of men and become world rulers. These women transmit hemophilia and Larry falls in love with two of them and resists the advances of an evil third who is secretary to the scientist, himself a bleeder and father to one of the girls.

On page 63 the author portrays these women as highly ~~xxx~~ erotic and psychic, heterosexual but with a tendency to lesbianism and feminism. Longevity and extraordinary strength, with many mediums and spiritualists carriers of hemophilia are said to be well known historically.

I found this novel far more interesting than The House of Many Worlds, possibly because of the acceptance of psychic powers and their attendant phenomena.

Note: Originally published in Startling Stories, October, 1953, this novel was reprinted as The Sex War as Galaxy Novel #42.

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Metcalf, Linda L.

Widening Trails; Daytona Beach, Florida, College Publishing Company (1953, Metcalf) 86p.

This short novel is an attempt on the part of the writer to visualize what her son, who died at the age of 24, might experience in the "afterlife".

Told in the first person by Johnny Stamp, Captain of a plane shot down over Berlin, who is immediately aware of his continued existence but must be told of his being among the dead, it is the story of how he and his co-pilot Charlie find their buddies, are helped by some and help others, meet girls and famous people like Benjamin Franklin, Leonardo da Vinci, Will Rogers, David Livingstone, and as thoughts are things in this realm, visualize as realities their memories of people and events in their past lives. Dr. Bland, Johnny's former favorite teacher, the woman librarian of his home town, former schoolmates, his grandparents, even his dog, welcome him to his new life. A description is given of the various planes available in which to work out their destinies, and the idea of continuous progress is proclaimed. This is a simple and idyllic outline of the afterlife, pretty much as it is taught in spiritualistic literature, with minor discrepancies.

Though the writer was a school-teacher, there are many mistakes in spelling and grammar, not all of which can be attributed to the printer. Also, though she attempts to make the boy's point of view paramount, he appears far from mature enough to have achieved a Captaincy; he expresses himself more as a woman might; and his view of the afterlife is more like that of a woman. In other words, Mrs. Metcalf projects her own personality rather than a portrayal of her son's.

The story is inconclusive, almost as though it had been broken off because the cost of printing further material was prohibitive. Although amateurish, it expresses an idyllic and optimistic view.

Although it qualifies as fantasy, this might be of more interest to spiritualists.

Metcalfe, John

Arm's-Length; London, Constable & Co Ltd (1930) 349p.

Engaged to marry his cousin Mary Neale after the war, Imray is employed by his uncle, and on a visit to a client meets Sisley Pound who has run off with a boy. She changes her mind about the boy, ditches him, hurts her foot, and attaches herself to Imray. Her mother is summoned, is grateful, and insists that Imray call to be thanked. He becomes involved with the family, who, it appears, have some income from rented property but are generally dependent upon "gifts" from gentlemen.

He falls in love with Sisley, remembers having met her as a child and being forbidden her company. She feels that he cannot become one of them and after expressing this view, she and her family vanish under peculiar circumstances.

Gerald Imray becomes reconciled with his cousin Mary and after she has made a final advance to him they quickly marry. She becomes pregnant; he learns from a friend of the Pounds that Sisley is also pregnant. Tracking her down, he realizes it is she whom he loves, rather than his wife. Sisley and her younger sister are in hiding; he arranges a home for them and visits them, finally discovering that Mrs. Pound is also separately in hiding because of the death of a male partner of hers in a bakery business, whom she admits having pushed over a cliff near a beach. Mary betrays Mrs. Pound's whereabouts to the police; Sisley is told by her aunt that Gerald was the betrayer, and drowns herself. Gerald and Mary are divorced; Gerald feels free, goes swimming, and the book closes with him realizing that he is farther than safe from shore.

This is a morbid novel whose theme appears to be the ease with which, by drifting aimlessly, one becomes involved in the problems of others. It is well-written, but of little ultimate value.

Meyer, Bernard C. (M.D.)

Houdini: A Mind in Chains; A Psychoanalytic Portrait; Illustrated; New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc. (1976, author)
Notes; Bibliography; Index 197p.

This is a serious biographical and personality study of Houdini, well written and researched, marred only by the bias of the author's acceptance of psychoanalysis as the whole key to understanding mankind.

Meyer believes that Houdini's life was influenced by his family and the life of Robert-Houdin, his early hero against whom he later turned along with Doyle and others. His search for evidence of human survival was contradicted by the fame he achieved by exposing fraudulent mediums; his own early faked mediumistic tricks led him to attribute these to most mediums.

His desire to be known as an escapologist rather than as a magician was a symbol of his lifelong desire to escape mediocrity and achieve fame. His marvelous ability is unquestioned; he had to labor long and hard to achieve mastery over locks and bolts.

I admire Houdini, but his failure to note facts supporting genuine psychic phenomena, which were available to him from his famous library, discloses the serious bias invalidating his claim to be able to reproduce rationally all mediumistic phenomena. He was naturally referring to physical phenomena; ignoring the mental-physical blendings and especially the mental facts which most modern researchers accept.

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Meyer, John J.

13 Seconds that Rocked the World, or, The Mentator;
A Romance of a Mankind Director in an Age of Certified
Reason; New York, Rae D. Henkle, 1935 205p.

Seven scientists form two groups devoted to establishing the reign of Reason. To implement their rule, they build The Mentator, a group brain duplicating the 1,700,000,-000 human brains then living on Earth. It is shown that this assembly can do the right thinking for mankind.

This is the fulfilment on Earth of the dream of Joe Shaun which concludes "The Immortal Tales of Joe Shaun". As a story, it is puerile, and the whole idea is dealt with on a moronic level. Strangely enough the writing is on a higher level, though marred by idiotic slang and humor.

My guess is that the author paid for publication of this novel; certainly it has no literary value. It does, however, qualify as science fiction of the worst kind.

Meyer, John J.

The Immortal Tales of Joe Shaun: An enchanting artist makes the five immortal hopes and dreams of mankind come true; Delightful Catnip for the Mind; A Satire on the stark realities; spiced with the greatest love story ever told; and blended with bewitching fantasy on the five freedoms of the cosmos. Six Illustrations; New York, The Caryldale Library, 1944 256p.

In this second edition of "Try Another World", the introduction by J. George Frederick is replaced by a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -page introduction, apparently by the author himself, and a "Preview of the Fulfilment of the Five Hopes" which synthesizes the stories. Otherwise the book appears to have been made from the same plates as the original edition, as even the original title appears on the left-hand pages.

Meyer, John J.

Try Another World: A Saga coursing its way through the six adventures of Joe Shaun which thrilled the village of Caryldale; Greater Dreams Hath No Man; With Six Illustrations; New York, The Business Bourse, 1942 256p.

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A three-page introduction by J. George Frederick used a dream of Major de Seversky as an example of the forecasting by this means of real things to come, and suggested that the dreams of Joe Shaun might foreshadow events of coming science.

All but the first story are fantastic science fiction of a puerile nature, cast in the form of dreams told to his doctor by Joe Shaun who wishes to be cured of the propensity so that he may concentrate on his work as a portrait artist. In each, Joe meets a beautiful girl: one of these is his sweetheart Evangalin to whom he is seldom faithful in thought when tempted by other beauties, though he never becomes involved sexually.

The only importance of this book arises from its kinship with the moronic kind of spiritualistic communications from "higher planes" received through mediums. This might be termed a science-fictional representation of spirit teachings, and could be made a study of the type of mind which becomes enthralled by the spiritualist philosophy.

Note: A second edition of this book appeared under the title "The Immortal Tales of Joe Shaun".

Meynell, Laurence

Storm Against the Wall; Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott
Company, 1931 307p.

This novel is an adventure based on the intrigue and action of a group intent on restoring the monarchy to the Proletarian State of Britain.

The dictator is portrayed as a hunchback sleeping only four hours in each twenty-four, living confined and in fear, and jealously in love with a high-class prostitute who is, in turn, in love with an able assistant of the dictator.

The protagonist who calls himself John Strange is Julian Sylvester. After six years of tyranny he is eager to thwart the dictator, and is delighted to be appointed to safeguard the Queen whose presence in Britain is felt to be essential as inspiration for the rebellion. The hunchback's mistress at first befriends him, then tries to entrap him; he escapes and through many perils at first secrets and then brings to London by the appointed time, the Queen, a young girl with whom he falls in love.

Velox, chief of the rebels, is the able assistant of the dictator who has resisted the advances of Rita in his role of Charles Appenhall; and when he is exposed by a former gardener who is now an Agent of the State Police, she aids him to escape, then kills the dictator.

Though primarily an adventure story along the lines of Alexander Dumas, this is well told; and it belongs in a fantasy library as an example of a future under dictatorship.

Meynell, Laurence

Strange Landing; Toronto, Collins (#325), (1947), 192p.
London, Collins, no date (#374m) 192p.

An ex-R.A.F. pilot, Caldecott is commissioned by a rich European Allingford to fly him and his ward Glorita to a Mediterranean island, where boats seldom call, and where life is guided by primitive religion with fertility rites and human sacrifice. Here a lame girl, loved by a British secret agent but outcast from her family, is to be sacrificed; and Allingford intends that his ward shall marry a Nazi masquerading in England as his servant, but actually the companion of a concentration camp "butcher" who stays on the island.

Because he is befriended by an ancient Chinese woman called Madame by Allingford, who sees in him the fulfilment of a prophecy heard by her before aeroplanes existed, Caldecott is saved from death when he crash-lands on the island. He and the British secret agent manage to hold off the evil forces, though they witness the primitive worship, and get away finally.

Told in the first person by Caldecott, who does not appeal to me as a hero, this is primarily an adventure yarn, with borderline fantasy elements only, but many loose ends are never cleared up, and the story is without significance.

Meyrink, Gustav

The Golem; translated by Midge Pemberton; frontispiece;
Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Co. (1928) 288p.

My interest in The Golem by Isaac Bashevis Singer led me to read this novel. It is one of the most puzzling books I have read since David Lindsay's A Voyage to Arcturus.

Like the Singer story, the background is Prague, but in more modern times. Narrated in the first person by an amnesiac calling himself Athanasius Pernath because he has found a hat he wears with that name imprinted on the band, it is a murder mystery, an occult novel with intimations of the Golem as inhabitant of a sealed room in a house reputed to be haunted, the room accessible only through a trap door, clairvoyant power of a young girl who says she does not dream but travels in spirit, her father a mystic who gives all he earns to the poor and lives a Spartan life; an impoverished student who is befriended by Pernath and who conspires to bring about the downfall of an avaristic pawnbroker whose evil scheming life is devoted to bringing about the downfall of others because he cannot find acceptance for himself, and a circle of friends of Pernath, who makes his living by cutting gems and repairing rare books. Pernath at times sees himself as a double of the Golem, in love of lusting for two girls, one the daughter of his mystic neighbor, the other a wife of a nobleman carrying on a love affair in danger of exposure by the pawnbroker.

Imprisoned on suspicion of murder, Pernath gets clues to its solution while in prison, is ultimately released, and in later years reviews the scenes of his life as if he were one cured of insanity. How much of the story is real, and how much hallucination is left pretty much to the judgment of the reader.

There are scenes of the night life of Prague which do not encourage exploration.

I may re-read this novel if I research the legend of the Golem. One distinguishing difference in the legend between this and Singer's version is that in this story, the Golem is brought to life by thrusting behind his teeth a piece of paper on which an occult formula is written.

Mezzrow, Milton (Mezz), and Wolfe, Bernard

Really the Blues; New York, Random House (1946, publishers)
Second printing;; appendices, glossary, Index 388p.

I am not much interested in jazz music, and read this book only because Bernard Wolfe collaborated in writing it. Wolfe is always worth reading, and this book confirms my opinion.

Mezzrow was a white Jew whose love for jazz music was so intense that he identified with blacks rather than his own race. He almost worshipped Louis Armstrong and musicians who could play jazz like him, became addicted to drugs, suffered dire poverty, was imprisoned for dealing in drugs, kicked the habit in favor of playing and recording music, lived a scandalous life, had two wives who left him, but achieved his lifelong goal of dedication to music.

Wolfe spent two years putting this autobiography together and its shocking story would not have been told without his help. It is a portrayal of American lowlife which illuminates the fate of the dedicated artist.

Mezzrow's withdrawal from drug addiction is horrifying and a warning against taking drugs.

Chester D. Cuthbert
March 7, 1996

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Mian, Mary

The Merry Miracle; Illustrated by Susanne Suba; Boston,
Houghton Mifflin Company (1949, Mary Shipman Mian; 132p.

When the nuns leave a convent in the little French village of Langladure, the people invite six Saints to use it as a Rest Home. The Saints come, but find that they acquire human character faults; the people learn that having their prayers granted does not always bring favorable results; disillusionment brings strife and discord

The jacket blurb says that the moral is that sainthood is not a permanent condition and has to be striven for constantly.

This is a gentle satire, a fantasy of little importance.



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Michel, M. Scott

The Black Key: An Alexander Cornell Mystery; New York,
Mystery House, 1946 (Michel) 271p.

This is a more interesting story than The Psychiatric Murders, better plotted and with the interesting theme of dream analysis by a psychiatrist. Hinging on the dream being faked by the murderess who is given shelter by Cornell while faking amnesia, again three people are killed and one almost fatally injured, blackmail is involved, and forgery in this case is of a medical transfer rather than counterfeit money. The elements of both books are quite similar, and an interesting study of the writer's limitations might be based on the two books.

Again, this book is associational in connection with dreams, rather than fantasy, and is primarily a murder mystery. It is of little importance, and is contrived rather than logical.

Michel, M. Scott

The Psychiatric Murders; New York, Mystery House, 1946
(1946, Michel) 256p.

This is the usual murder mystery with three murders to solve, and was of interest to me mainly because of incidental hypnotic phenomena mentioned throughout the story which were inspired by writings of G. H. Estabrooks, one of whose books I have. It is consequently of value mainly as an associational item for psychic phenomena, and not particularly for fantasy.

The phenomena mentioned are post-hypnotic suggestion and making a subject murder while under this influence. The characters are not particularly unusual, and the casting of suspicion on various of them is done rather gratuitously and in a contrived manner.

It is not an important book in any respect, but there are not many novels which touch on hypnotic phenomena, so note should probably be made of this one.

Michel, M. Scott

The X-Ray Murders; Handi-Book #30; New York, Quinn Publishing Company, Inc. (1944), (Coward-McCann Inc., 1942) 142p

Told in the first person by Wood Jaxon, a tough private eye, this is a taut, concise and interesting murder mystery, providing some information about the dangers of X-Rays and a sample of using psychology and knowledge of character as the means of identifying the killer.

The plot is complicated, but so well planned that there is little time to consider its inherent improbabilities. The killing of three mobsters by Jaxon, his having sexual intercourse with the sister (a near-nymphomaniac) of the girl he eventually marries, his arrogant brutality, and his scorn of authority, suggest that he may be like Mike Hammer, Spillane's character, whose reputation (since I have not read Spillane) is my only clue to his character.

The killer is a son of the murdered doctor, allegedly a weakling, who purposely maintains that appearance.

The narrative style is close to that of James M. Cain.

HOME STREET



CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

240 HOME STREET • WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3G 1X3 • (204) 783-5881

May 30, 1982

Dear Home Street Youth:

Just a note to let you know of the fun and exciting youth activities coming your way this Summer.

First - Youth Campout, July 1-4 at
Spruce Woods Provincial Park
A registration form is enclosed - note its due date:
June 20. This is especially for you - the youth of
Home Street Church - and your friends. We'll leave
the church at 8:30 AM, July 1.

Second - Encounter '82, August 8-15 at
Bird's Hill Provincial Park
This is the Big One! Youth from all across Canada will
be joining us for a terrific week. Camp leader will be
Steve Mabry from Sacramento, California. If you
attended the Anaheim Assembly last year, you may
remember him as one of the youth leaders - the one
with the guitar. Enclosed is further information on
Encounter and an Encounter Registration form. Note
its due date: June 30.

Again this year you have something great to work
for. Bottles? Car washes? Whatever; it's time to
begin. I'll be in touch.

In His Service,


Ray E. Trotter

Michel, Scott

Journey into Limbo; New York, Macfadden-Bartell Corporation (2nd Ptg, October, 1968, 1st, October, 1963), (1962, Liveright Publishing Corporation), (#214) 192p.

I was surprised to discover that this apparent romance novel is a lost race fantasy.

On pages 78-79 a history of the Parads as emigrants from England, then known as the Isle of Brython, is provided. In 5 ships they set sail for Africa, but settled on a South Sea island, protected from outside observation by a radiant shield and lived from about 43 A.D. without interaction with the outside world. A blond, physically superior race, ostracising any maimed or defective members, governed by a council of wise men, it practised a primitive and natural society, determining the sex of children as needed by special foods.

A very closely similar story is Paul Wellman's The Fiery Flower.

Into this island come a psychiatrist and a prostitute who have been shipwrecked and are sole survivors. The psychiatrist is not well portrayed, in my opinion, but the prostitute seems authentically described. The man has visited the South Seas on holiday to recuperate from the pressures of his work; the prostitute to recover from a partial hysterectomy, as a result of which she has been told that she cannot bear children.

Each falls in love with an island native. The man is the son of a Council Chief, who is rebellious against the authority of his father and the council; the woman is maimed accidentally by the loss of some fingers, and his sister. This coincidence stretches probability, but simplified the story. The son kills his father and assumes command, but his followers forsake him and the revolution fails. He helps the invaders to construct a boat in which they leave the island, but die at sea from exposure before they can be rescued.

The main interest of the story involves the differing sociological ideas of ours and the island civilizations, and the consideration of whether the prostitute or the psychiatrist is doing the better work in our society.

Although not well written, this novel provides some food for thought.

Michelet, Jules (1798-1874)

Satanism and Witchcraft: A Study in Medieval Superstition;
Translated by A. R. Allinson; New York, The Citadel Press (1939,
Publishers), (December, 1946); Epilogue; Notes and elucidations
332p.

The Encyclopedia Britannica does not list this book, but it describes the author as an accurate writer of facts, but with his own imaginative interpretation of them. His History of France is usually published in 19 volumes; he was an authoritative historian who wrote many books.

This book, like many other early books I have read, presents facts which more recent books gloss over or ignore. Michelet was sceptical, attributing the phenomena to hysteria or superstition, and in only one passage on page 153 does he indicate that extra-sensory, or more probably superacute hearing, informed a victim of the barking mania which afflicted masses of people, is reported which might support ESP.

The last part of the book summarizes the case history of a saintly girl Charlotte Cadiere who was victimized by a licentious priest. The earlier part of the book describes the horrible conditions of the serfs and their utter subjection to the whims of their feudal lords, so graphically that no modern book repeats the facts to the best of my knowledge.

Almost any book written since this was published refers to it as a prime authority, yet the author's attempt to rationalize the phenomena seems to have influenced him to ignore phenomena which might have changed his viewpoint.

I was amused to note that a previous owner of this book listed by pen following the printed bibliography the four books which may have become known to him from reading WEIRD TALES magazine, but are fictitious:

Unsprechlechen Kultun (Von Junzt)

Book of the Worm

Book of Eibon

Necrnomicon (Abdul AlHazred) (I use his spelling. CDC)

The most recent book referred to by Michelet is dated 1860.

As a description of the beliefs of people convinced of witchcraft, this book is excellent.

Chester D. Cuthbert
January 4, 1998

Note: Paperback editions are:

New York, Dell #7572

London, Tandem #4204, (#965, reprinted 1969, 1970)

332p.

235p.

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CELEBRATING
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
1962-1987
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
ÇA SE FÊTE!

FirstCity Trust

Mighels, Philip Verrill

As It Was in the Beginning; New York, Desmond FitzGerald,
Inc. (1912, Publishers); Color frontispiece 373p.

Sent to China by his best friend to recuperate from illness and to bring back Fenton's fiancée, Sidney Grenville falls in love with Elaine and warns her that he will win her. She is offended by what she considers his betrayal of his friend and his positive declaration regardless of her own feelings, and avoids him as much as possible on shipboard.

Shipwreck leaves them the sole survivors and they land on a tropic island inhabited only by small game and a huge tiger which wears a jewelled golden collar. The early part of the story is devoted to survival technique with few resources and the conquest of the tiger.

The last part of the book is devoted to the finding of hidden treasure and a battle with fiendish Dyaks who are seeking the treasure. Sidney's considerate care for her and his valiant battle to save their lives brings about a change in Elaine's feelings and a dawning of love. Rescued after defeating the Dyaks, they are met by Fenton who bows out, leaving Sidney and Elaine happy.

This is simply shipwreck adventure with only scientific expertise in manufacturing explosives and other survival means as a possible explanation for listing this as fantasy in Bleiler 1. It is not classifiable as fantastic fiction in my opinion.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 1, 1997

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CELEBRATING
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
1962-1987
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Ç A S E FÊ T E !

FirstCity Trust

Mighels, Philip Verrill

The Crystal Sceptre: A Story of Adventure; New York,
R. F. Fenno & Company, 1901 (1901, Author) 389p

New York and London, Harper & Brothers, 1906 (1901,
Author) 346p

The first edition is superior, but the Harper edition appears to be a complete reprinting, the type more crowded.

Stranded in an island jungle by storm destroying a balloon flight which killed his partner, John finds himself captured by a primitive baboon-like tribe. Making use of his scientific knowledge he gains ascendancy even over the king of the tribe, who wields a rock crystal headed club as symbol of mastery, aids these red-furred beings against a black-furred but similar enemy, discovers a cave of gold before which is the gold-encrusted skeleton of a man, and falls in love with a girl wearing a snake who appears to be worshipped as a goddess by the blacks. Turning a log into a boat he escapes with the girl and is rescued.

This is almost formula prehistoric or primitive tribe fiction following the pattern set by H. Rider Haggard, but better and more intelligently written than the average.

When I came to the cave of gold, I wondered if A. Merritt had read this book and based "The Face in the Abyss" novelette more imaginatively on it.

So many of these primitive tribe novels are patterned that only details are different, and the battles and struggles grow wearisome.

Chester D. Cuthbert
May 19, 1997

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CELEBRATING
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
—1962-1987—
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
C A S E F Ê T E

FirstCity Trust

The Weigher of Souls by André Maurois (Translated by Hamish Miles)
Appleton, 1931, Copyright, Charles Scribner's Sons.

Narrator: I believe I can see in nature the traces of an order, a plan—the reflection of divinity, if you like. But the plan seems unintelligible to a human mind. I have never come across any visible sign of the survival of souls. I don't believe in the severity of a God who must at the same time be our Creator. Thought without body seems inconceivable. Our thinking is a tissue of images and sensations. Sensations cease with the sentient organs, and the rebirth of images is bound up with the existence of a nervous system. Certain physical deterioration of the brain cells causes and alteration, even a suppression, of personality. A man's thoughts can be transformed by the presence of spirochaetes, the injection of certain glandular products. All this shows strong linking between the physical basis of our thinking and the thought itself. And there is syncope. Unconsciousness, with no later memory, indicates the death of the soul while the body is dead.

Dr. James: In swoon you were temporarily unconscious of personality. Many patients, reviving from faints or anaesthetic, remember extraordinary scenes, and sometimes describe the impressions of a soul set free. But that your personality was annihilated, the very fact of your awakening totally disproves. You were, on recovery, the same man. This would seem to prove that your personality was able to survive when your body had seemingly deserted it. Suppose a man dies, but a means is found for inducing a circulation of new blood in his head. If the man lives again, his personality will be the same as before, but where did the personality come from? Was it suddenly formed, with its landscape of memories, its passions and sentiments, in that newly reborn body? Or is it the dead man's old soul. If the latter, isn't it evident that it did not die with the old body?

N: If our memories are linked with a definite structure of the brain, and if that structure has not altered, the memories are reborn identical.

J: That presupposes that the brain contains the outline of its images and memories; but we possess no proof at all of any such organization of the brain. The idea of cerebral localization is less and less favored by specialists. Deep study of the structure of the brain gives the impression that it is, as Bergson says, a system of communication, a telephone exchange between the body and something else. Destroy exchange and communication ceases, but that doesn't mean the death of the communicator or interlocutor.

N: No proof of continued existence of interlocutor. Can thought exist without corporeal basis?

J: If the body, the first cell, the first perceptible particle of protoplasm, were not preceded by a 'vital force', a 'creative thought', matter would never have been organized into a living body. Where was the material basis of the thought from which you were born? From what brain were transmitted the inherited thoughts and ancestral images that make you You?

N: Wasn't this material basis within the fertilized cell from which my body sprang?

Brand Williams presented a disreputable appearance as he staggered up the white marble steps of the temple. Slimy water dripped from his sodden garments and from the heavy pack which bent his high, broad shoulders. A four days' growth of stubbly beard, mud-streaked, disfigured and brutalized his face.

In a mood of sullen bitterness, he had been reflecting on how different was his advent from what he had expected it to be. Had he been able to fly his plane into the midst of this ancient Greek colony, what a sensation he would have created! Cut off from the world for over 2600 years, these people might well be primitive still and provide easy pickings for a god-like adventurer. Instead, his supply of gasoline had given out and he had been forced to make a landing in the midst of this vaporous African swamp. It had taken him three days to traverse the rest of the way. And now, far from appearing a god, he looked like a tramp.

Pausing a moment at the top of the steps, he wondered if he should go on to the town whose lights he had seen beyond the temple, rather than risk disaster by profaning the temple in his present state. His mood decided him to dare the danger. He did not knock at the heavy stone doors. They swung to either side as he pulled them open, revealing a dimly-illuminated corridor. Stamping heavily along half its short length he then stopped, spread wide his legs to brace his weary body, threw back his head arrogantly and shouted, in Greek:

"Is anyone here?"

The vaulted corridor reverberated. The sound died away slowly, echoing and re-echoing into silence. Again he shouted; in answer came a light patter of footsteps beyond a door he was facing.

J: Where is any scientific proof that your body and mind were prefigured in a certain cell before birth? Observation indicates that the mental, the sentimental, life is supplementary to the material life, with a whole unexplored domain...

N: Where would the billions of souls, men and animals, go, if survival were a fact?

J: That implies an eternal survival of all personalities. I think that every living body might have attached to ~~itself~~ a certain quantity of a force, which might be termed 'vital fluid'. After death, this may return to a kind of common stock. Why shouldn't there be a principle of conservation of life, analogous to the conservation of energy?

The weight of a corpse always diminishes during the hours following death. Part of the moisture contained in the tissues is lost by slow evaporation, and there is no nutrition to replace it. The drop is continuous for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours, then there is a tiny jump down.

J: I'm not seeking the spirit. I'm seeking a certain form of energy, which, when linked up with matter, will endow matter with that still unexplained property--life. The reactions of living matter have not yet been produced by any physical or chemical process. Even if it were proved that a 'vital fluid' exists and has definite mass, allowance would have to be made within the fluid itself, for spirit and matter, and then one would have to show how they are united.

Mesmer had the idea of a vital fluid, and Baron von Reichenbach followed. He assembled about 1860 in Bavaria subjects of peculiar sensitivity, people who could perceive in total darkness, round men, animals and flowers, a luminous fluid called 'Od' from a Sanscrit term meaning 'all-penetrating'. They saw emanations rising from bodies; neither smoke nor vapor, but resembling a sustained flickering. Reddish in color for right side of body, bluish for left.

The sudden drop in weight was discovered by Dr. Crooks during the war. In man, fall averaged about $17/100$ ths of a milligram. In man, the normal curve of evaporation is almost always interrupted by three sudden falls. ~~Es~~ 1. 1hr.35mins, bet. 15&19/20ths of milligram 2. 20mins later, 3. 1hr. later. Possibly another before body is placed on scale.

Light can be weighed; and theoretically could be compressed in a receptacle. The different cells of the body don't all die at the same time. A heart lives longer than a brain... But this idea of individual death of cells is only a hypothesis. If the force exists which may be the basis of personality, it is bound to disappear all at one time, doubtless at instant of heaviest fall; but the personality of a man is quite distinct from the life of one of our cells. The soul need not be material; as it is linked with the body for the expression of its thoughts and the perception of its sensations, so it is possible that on survival of bodily death it links itself with this vital energy. Possibly personality could survive the body if the vital energy of that body could remain grouped in a single spot. Just as matter returns after death to universal matter, so vital force returns to reservoir of spiritual energy until it is reunited to certain atoms of matter and reanimates a living being.

THE DESTINY MAKER

Brand Williams presented a disreputable appearance as he staggered up the white marble steps of the temple. Slimy water dripped from his sodden garments and from the heavy pack which bent his high, broad shoulders. A four days' growth of stubbly beard, mud-streaked, disfigured and brutalized his face.

In a mood of sullen bitterness, he had been reflecting on how different was his advent from what he had expected it to be. Had he been able to fly his plane into the midst of this ancient Greek colony, what a sensation he would have created! Cut off from the world for over 2600 years, these people might well be primitive still and provide easy pickings for a god-like adventurer. Instead, his supply of gasoline had given out and he had been forced to make a landing in the midst of this vaporous African swamp. It had taken him three days to traverse the rest of the way. And now, far from appearing a god, he looked like a tramp.

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"Is anyone here?"

The vaulted corridor reverberated. The sound died away slowly, echoing and re-echoing into silence. Again he shouted; in answer came a light patter of footsteps beyond a door he was facing.

Millard, Joseph

Edgar Cayce Mystery Man of Miracles; Greenwich, Conn.,
Fawcett Publications, Inc. (Gold Medal, #R1831), (1967, 1956
The Edgar Cayce Foundation, Inc.) 224p.

This is an informal and largely conversational biography meant for popular information, and is largely undocumented. It does, however, mention a third fire in which Cayce's clothes were burnt but he himself escaped injury; this is not mentioned to my recollection in the other biographies I have read. The final two pages mention the Foundation, and this is a revision of the original edition of the book.

In view of the importance of Cayce and his phenomena, I am intending to read everything I can find relating to him. In my opinion, he will be as important in religion as in the scientific world of the future.

Miller, Henry

The Air-Conditioned Nightmare; New York, Avon Books
#V2038 (New Directions, 1945); Avon, Sept., 1961, 5th pte
July, 1965 255p.

Miller and his friend Rattner decided to tour America but were unable to obtain a Guggenheim fellowship, and Miller appends a note of the kind of ridiculous pursuits for which fellowships were in fact awarded. Miller likes the southland better than the north, and as usual praises his friends, and derides the taste of the critics; he feels that America is the death-blow to culture; and that industrialization will eliminate all the worthwhile pursuits of man as a higher type of being.

This is a more sober side to Miller's writing, and what he has to say should receive attention. I cannot agree with his views, but there is much sense in what he has to say, and he says it well.

Miller, Henry

Black Spring; New York, Grove Press, Inc. (1963); 243p.

This is a group of autobiographical sketches, and diatribes, none of particular interest, though "The Angel is My Watermark" is a humorous account of a water-color he did.

Probably this is the least interesting of all Miller's books that I have read.

Miller, Henry

A Devil in Paradise; London, New English Library (#19101)
(July, 1974) (1963, 1968) 128p.

This book is Part III of Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymos Bosch.

Although labelled "fiction" on the spine of the book, this appears to be a factual account of the life of Conrad Moricand (1-17-87 - 8-31-54). Like most of Miller's books, however, it is difficult to distinguish between fact and fiction.

This is another "old man of the mountain" account of a parasite who, when befriended, becomes a leech to whose existence and tastes all must cater. The classical account, to my mind, is the book by Nedra Tyre, whose title I have forgotten, but notes on which are available in my files.

Moricand, formerly a wealthy man, has retained genteel tastes, has kept his good clothes rather than pawning them as Miller would have done, and has cadged his living from Anais Nin who introduced him to Miller and was obviously relieved to thrust the responsibility elsewhere. Miller paid Moricand's living expenses, then his travelling expenses to Big Sur from Europe, and told him he would be welcome to share Miller's home for the rest of his life.

On arrival, instead of accepting what was available, Moricand asked for special facilities and catering to his expensive tastes in talcum, tobacco, etc. Subject to the ravages of an itch which he could not forbear to scratch, and which was of psychological origin, although perhaps originally the result of drug addiction, Moricand could claim ill-health. He was a competent artist, but drew obscenely; and Miller called him Satan after learning that he had seduced a child with the connivance of the child's mother.

As in so many of Miller's books, Miller professes to be a saintly philanthropist, and specifically rails against the rich people who are stingy with their money and denied him alms when he was in distress. Certainly he put up with more from Moricand than I would have.

Miller's spiteful portrait of Moricand is well done; the writing is excellent; and the book is well worth keeping as an account of a social parasite.

It should be mentioned that this book is borderline fantasy because of Moricand's ability as an astrologer, whom Miller was convinced had genuine ability.

Miller, Henry

The Henry Miller Reader; Edited by Lawrence Durrell; A
New Directions Book (1959) 397p.

As a sampler of Miller's writings, this falls short of being truly representative because of censorship restrictions, but it does indicate the breadth of his interests and outlines his limitations.

Of interest to fantasy enthusiasts is "Picodiribibi", reprinted from "Plexus", and incidental comment regarding astrology, theosophy, and other occult interests; and his essay "The Universe of Death" in which he states his views about mankind in relation particularly to the writings of Lawrence, Proust and Joyce. The first of these he considers alive, and a writer of life; the other two as dead, and their work dealing with the mind and death and dissolution of the race. His enthusiasm for Blaise Cendrars and other writers he knew personally seems to me to resemble Lovecraft's for his own circle of friends, and to have no greater validity as criteria to the worth of their work.

Having so far read three Miller books, I would not accord him even half so high a place in his limited sphere as Lovecraft earned in his smaller sphere. Miller's vision, if his appraisals of writers and of the human race are accurate, may be worth consideration; but his way of life was the opposite of my own, and his irresponsible demonstration of his belief that the world owed him a living, his irritation with people who would not support his view, and his grasping at all praise from his friends who recognized his mission and his "genius", indicate his subconscious discontent and realization of his inadequacy.

I am inclined to agree with his fundamental view that no aspect of life should be ignored, and that censorship is futile and dangerous. But I do not agree with his way of life, though I think his ultimate volume of writing does excuse an originally unjustified dedication to the life of a writer.

Once the reader has grasped Miller's message, the bulk of his writing is little more than a ranting self-justification. Whether he is as honest in his philosophy as he implies, or has overemphasized the seamy side of life as a demonstration of his refusal to conform, is a question for debate.

Miller, Henry

Nexus; London, Weidenfeld & Nicolson (1964)
(Vol. 3 of "The Rosy Crucifixion")

359p.

Continuing directly from the conclusion of "Plexus", Miller describes the growing influence of Stasia on Mona and the two women abandoning him to go to Paris; how he took a temporary job as a grave-digger to support himself, then was taken into a friend's office. His casual amours during the absence of Mona are not emphasised, but not disguised.

His friendship with the Jew Sid Essen (Reb) who admires him and grants him freely anything he has, contrasts with his completing a novel while subsidized by one of Mona's "admirers" for whom he has respect as well as derision. He expresses his gratitude for a contact with theosophy and outlines some of his literary and artistic enthusiasms, including Eugene V. Debs in terms which show his appreciation of other than earthy things.

Whether his detailing of sexual episodes is intended to jeer at less explicit accounts, or is merely giving them the actual value in comparison with the rest of his life, I can not decide. I do not consider this final volume to be up to the standard of "Plexus", but it ends his New York early life as a writer and ends on the verge of his going to Paris.

The early part of this book has been published in paperback, as follows:

The Greenleaf Publishing Company, Evanston, Ill. (1965)
192p.

The publishers state that the first volume, *SEXUS*, can not be published in England "at the present time". This is unfortunate, as I should like to have been able to read it ahead of this book.

I believe that I would have despised Miller had I known him and his way of life during the period of which he writes in this book. His second wife, Mona, encouraged him to throw up his job as personnel manager for a telegraph company; and to devote his life to writing. He describes the discouragement, the many days of sheer inability to write, the scrounging for money and meals, the drinking and sex orgies, the unusual and sometimes apparently pathologic lives and characters of their friends; but at the same time emphasises his admiration for Dostoevsky, John Brown, W. E. Burghardt Dubois, Spengler, Van Cogh, and the genius of others.

Chapter 8, beginning at page 287, outlines some views on occultism which deserve study. One of the "inventions" of a friend Caccieacci, concerning a robot named Picodiribibi, beginning at page 363, is also of interest to fantasy and science fiction enthusiasts.

But the main value of this book to me is that it is a demonstration of the kind of existence which bohemian life of writer or artist, abandoning the practical values of western industrial life, imposes. Even though the overall appreciation of the great artists and geniuses remains unimpaired, the daily life involves shifts which destroy morality, engender resentment and even hostility toward those whose daily grind makes them insensitive to artistic values, and makes the impecunious writer feel that his friends owe him a share of the fruit of their labors, and the world owes him a living. It is true that a writer works harder than most people; any artist does; but to ignore, and even to rebel against, the facts of life: to insist that life must change to conform with the artist's wishes, is simply to place a value on his work which the world will not accept until it is forced by the sheer merit of it to do so.

I can write my own life as a reply to Miller's: I have not accomplished what he has, but I have freed myself by my own effort to an extent which he found impossible, probably because his genius would not allow him to make the decision I did to conform by necessity.

Miller, Henry

Sexus; New York, Grove Press, Inc. (1965, 6th ptg) 634p.
(Book 1 and Book 2 of "The Rosy Crucifixion", actually designated in the text in five volumes)

Commencing with his meeting in a dance hall his second wife Mara (who chagged her name to Mona before long) this is the story of Miller's life ending in his divorce from his first wife Maude. Right up to and beyond the actual granting of the divorce he appears to have had sexual relations with her, and casually with various women in addition to those with Mona, whose sporadic disappearances facilitated these exploits.

Either Miller knew only promiscuous women (who seldom wore undergarments when he was near, and who were easy prey to his advances) or he overindulges in sexual fantasies; I am inclined to suspect the latter. That either he or his friends were as open in their sex-talk as he says, I also doubt. Some parts of this volume are retold in "Tropic of Capricorn", and it is not clear to me in what order his books should be read in order to gain a coherent view of his "life".

The bulk of this book narrates his experiences as employment manager for the Telegraph Company, and his amours during the time he awaited final decree of divorce. Explicit sexual encounters form a great part of the wordage, but philosophical passages of more importance, descriptions of environment and the characters he knew, and reflections on life, enhance the value of the book.

My conclusion about Miller is that one reading suffices to understand his view that nothing in human experience should be screened from consideration; but once this view is understood, Miller, it seems to me, is a self-convicted poseur, his alleged honesty more that of an exhibitionist than of a humanist. And sex, to Miller, seldom involves love; it is merely an appetite to be appeased. If he really loved Mona, as he declares, his actions were contrary.

In many ways, reading Miller is a liberating experience, but the life he alleges having led is one which few people would choose, even libertines, if they had not already abandoned choice by giving free rein to their desires.

Miller, Henry

Tropic of Cancer; New York, Grove Press (1961) Black
Cat Edition 288p.

Commencing almost incoherently, this book describes the life of a libertine in Paris, cadging from friends, proof-reading at a newspaper, teaching without payment, working at anything which will provide a meal and drink and sex. The danger of exposure to venereal disease is treated as casually as his criminal associations; and the irresponsible conduct of Americans in Paris is portrayed as clearly as the life of the vagabond which Miller was at this period.

Sordid, yet humorous, this book should provide all the evidence anyone might need to warn against the life, allegedly carefree and gay, of an expatriate.

Miller, Henry

Tropic of Capricorn; New York, Grove Press, Inc. (1961)
(Fifth Printing); #9112 - 95¢ 348p.

This autobiographical novel covers mainly the early years' during Miller's employment as employment manager with a telegraph company. His friends and acquaintances, and with more importance his relationships with his wife and Mara (subsequently named Mona) and other women, together with some philosophical passages, fill these pages with a frankness which can be excused on the ground that the sexual adventures described must be mainly imaginary.

Miller's alleged honesty in portraying his life seems to me the attitude of a poseur. It is inconceivable to me that any man can pursue sexual conquests without regard for the welfare of women involved, particularly when he cannot finance adequately, and is in fact in debt almost continually.

I believe I have now read about six books by Miller, and I doubt if I would learn anything worthwhile from reading More.

Miller, Henry

The World of Sex, and Max and the White Phagocytes;
London, Wyndham Publications Ltd., (Star Book #39692) 126p.

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2. The World of Sex	51

On page 101 Miller says that his books are purely autobiographical. The blurb says "these two stories", but on the back cover the publisher shows "General Non-fiction" as its category. My recollection is that many of Miller's books have been described as fiction, while their content confirms Miller's declaration.

(1) tells with apparent honesty Miller's relationship with a derelict presser of clothing who pursues him for companionship and handouts. Miller tries to avoid him, feels disgusted with both himself and his acquaintance, but comes to consider Max symbolic of humanity at the present day. I have either read this before, or something similar in other books of Miller's.

(2) is a serious essay on sex and love, with Miller exposing the hypocrisy of human beings who fear to accept the truth of their natures and are bound by laws and custom to shackle their actions. The essay is revised from its original text, part of which is published with his changes shown in his handwriting. He sees modern life as dehumanized, automated, divorced from reason and instinct by fear of reprisal.

Miller uses sexual freedom as an instance of the freedom he considers desirable in every sphere of activity. Frustration and repression lead, in his view, to perversion and violence. While there is some justification for his view, I cannot agree that all desires should be gratified.

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CELEBRATING
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Ç A S E F Ê T E !

FirstCity Trust

Miller, J. R.

Glimpses of the Heavenly Life; New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Company (1907) 32p.

The dust jacket, whose blurb constitutes a short biography of the author (3-20-40: 7-2-12), shows: "An inspiring sermon on the sure proofs of immortality". The sermon is based on ideas from the Bible, but specifically states that the veil between earth and heaven has never been penetrated, and that only hints and glimpses of the after-life are given.

There is no support in this book for other than religious belief. United Presbyterian Church doctrine is probably supported.

Miller, Paul

Born to Heal: A Biography of Harry Edwards, the spirit healer; London, Corgi Books #9030; Illustrated; (1972) 254p.

The biography was originally published by the Spiritualist Press in 1948 and this edition is brought up to date by Maurice Barbanell beginning at page 159. Barbanell wrote a preface to the third edition of Edwards' The Science of Spirit Healing.

The unjust prejudice against spirit healing by church and medicine and even by laws must be overcome if people are to get cured of illnesses orthodox medicine cannot help. Alternative methods of cure are known, like Christian Science, yet doctors refuse to accept any but materialistic methods.

Both Miller and Barbanell admit that doctors accept help but are reluctant to publicly admit this because cooperation with any unorthodox healers is forbidden by medical authority.

Edwards is sincere and altruistic.

Chester D. Cuthbert
January 22, 2001

Miller, P. Schuyler

Alicia in Blunderland; Introduction by Lloyd Arthur Eshbach; Philadelphia, Oswald Train: Publisher, 1983; (1983, Eshbach) 117p.

I read this book when it was serialized in Science Fiction Digest in the 1930's, and although it is not important to me, decided to purchase a copy for old times' sake.

The references to Merritt and his imitators are enough to make the purchase worthwhile as an associational item for my Merritt collection. A science fictional Alice merely uses her character without portraying it adequately, and her situation as a setting for commentary on science fiction and its authors, characters, and idiosyncracies.

The book is well produced, and may become a collector's item.

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Miller, R. DeWitt

Forgotten Mysteries: True Stories of the Supernatural
New York, Grosset & Dunlap (1947, Miller); Index 202p.

Part of the material in this book is from a series of
articles in Coronet Magazine, but expanded.

It is a carefully selected and abbreviated summary of
the more factual cases familiar to most students of psychi-
cal research, some of which were new to me. The index is
useful.

Paperback title: Impossible Yet It Happened!

Miller, R. DeWitt

Impossible Yet It Happened!;-New York, Ace Books, Inc.
(#K-255; F-137); Index (Also #K-229) 128p.

This is the paperback of the hardcover entitled Forgotten Mysteries: True Stories of the Supernatural

Miller, DeWitt

Reincarnation: The Whole Startling Story; Montreal, Bantam Books (#1507), (August, 1956, Publishers); Bibliography; 118p.

This is really a symposium rather than an individual work, since Chapter 7 is written by James Orenshaw; Chapter 8 is written by two students; and Chapter 15 is written by Russell G. MacRobert, M.D. Also much of other chapters is reprinted from Miller's earlier work You Do Take It with You.

The book appears to have been hastily prepared to take advantage of the Bernstein The Search for Bridey Murphy sensation.

Miller's conclusion is that there are some useful ideas in the hypotheses of reincarnation, but that no satisfactory proof of it has been given.

This is a fairly useful summary of the ideas currently circulating about the idea.

Miller, R. DeWitt

Stranger than Life; New York, Ace Books, Inc. (#K-168)
(1955, The Citadel Press); Bibliography 190p.

The hardcover title: You DO Take It With You.

(The hardcover edition contains illustrations and index missing from the paperback edition.)

Miller, R. DeWitt

You DO Take It With You: An Adventure into the Vaster Reality; Illustrated; New York, The Citadel Press (1955, Second Printing); Bibliography; Index 238p.
(Paperback title: Stranger than Life)

Although there are typographical and other minor errors in this book, it is a fairly good summary of the writer's views after 25 years devoted to psychical research. He knew Carrington, Carrett, and other researchers personally, and was an early investigator of flying saucers.

Accepting the majority of psychic phenomena as proven to exist, he endeavors in this book to fit them into a framework of the larger universe to which he feels we belong by reason of our second, or astral body.

Like Carrington, he appears to have accepted the spiritualistic hypothesis and the immortality of the soul, feeling that we are already living in eternity, but that we have a degree of freewill. I do not believe that he visualizes the static universe as I do.

Retain this hardcover edition; it has an index, faulty but useful, which the paperback lacks.

Miller, Ron

Space Art; New York, Starlog Magazine (1978, O'Quinn
Studios) 192p.

Ray gave me this book while he was visiting in summer, 1979. I told him I would be pleased to have it because Ron Gallant's name appears on Page 191.

I have read the book, and there is a great deal of information concerning science fiction artists which is not readily available to me elsewhere.

The text indicates that artists must be far better educated than I had imagined, if their work is to be given the authenticity which guarantees permanent worth.

The reproductions seem to me to be of superior quality, and this book should be retained for reference.

Miller, Jr., Walter M.

A Canticle for Leibowitz; Philadelphia & New York, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1960 (1959, author); 3rd Impr. 320p.

Paperback: New York, Bantam Books (#N5423, same cover on #05233 and 06883; not like the cover on N5423.) 278p.

This novel deals with the attempts of a monastery to preserve relics of a past civilization destroyed by nuclear war and interpret them in order to understand that era.

Based on shorter parts published in the Magazine of Fantasy and Science fiction, the novel is divided into three parts, each related loosely to the other. Religion is built on human error; tyranny endangers the preservation of the relics and the monks defend their mission to the best of their ability. Re-discovery of atomic power brings disaster again, just as a space ship is ready to leave the devastated earth.

The blurb on the dust jacket of the hardcover describes the novel better than I can; there are different simplified blurbs on each of the two different covers of the paperback editions I have.

Basically error-prone mankind is divided into two kinds of people: those who live by faith and those who depend on knowledge. Both are fallible. Man's exploration of his universe is only now beginning; what he knows merely teaches him how much more he does not know.

This is a superior novel. My impression is that it is intended to convey much more than my intelligence is able to understand. One of the characters is the Wandering Jew, still awaiting vainly the return of Jesus to free him from; why this character failed to remember everything necessary about our world is not clear to me. Surely he could have enabled the monks to avoid their mistakes.

(In the previous paragraph after "from" I should have typed "life".)

Much poetry and several books and short stories have left me with the feeling that they are composed by intelligences greater than mine; this is one. This feeling is not entirely due to my lack of education; the thinking involved is on a higher and more complex level than mine. Possibly re-reading this book would be enlightening, but it did not appeal sufficiently to encourage me to do so.

My knowledge is sufficient to enable me to survive contentedly and it is my impression that more intelligent people are often less than happy. I'm inclined to leave well enough alone, and enjoy life as much as possible.

Note: The first paperback edition seems to be Bantam #F2212, in February, 1961; 278p.

New Bantam edition, August, 1976, 3rd ptg #2973 313p.

(#H2618, February, 1961, 3rd ptg 278p.

(#S2973, August, 1968, 9th ptg 278p.

(#20990, February, 1982, 9th ptg 313p.

Toronto, Macmillan, 1968; Notes and questions prepared by Kenneth J. Weber, B.A. 386p.

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Dear Choice Supporter:

You are invited to a Choice Celebration. We will celebrate the first anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision recognizing a woman's right to reproductive freedom. We will honour Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who fought with us to win this right.

A Choice Celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 1989, at the International Inn. A presentation to Dr. Morgentaler will be made at 8:00 p.m. Wine and cheese will be served.

We hope to accomplish two goals from this event. First, we intend to develop resources to lobby the Federal Government regarding the introduction of any restrictive legislation on abortion. We need the voice of Manitobans to be heard. We have a critical role to play in the upcoming debate.

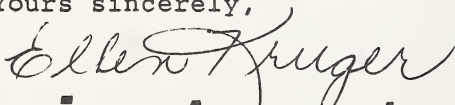
Second, we want to mount a legal challenge to the Provincial Government's decision to refuse to pay for abortions outside of hospitals. We know that abortions in approved medical facilities such as community health clinics are safer and less costly. We believe the government is acting unethically, perhaps unconstitutionally.

Tickets for this Choice Celebration are available at a cost of \$25.00. Larger donations are welcomed. Benefactors, who contribute \$200.00 and over and donors (\$100.00 - \$199.00) will be acknowledged in the evening's program.

Tickets can be purchased at Bold Print, 478-A River Avenue, the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, 16 - 222 Osborne Street, Times Change Restaurant on Main and St. Mary's, or the National Council of Jewish Women at the Gwen Sector Creative Living Centre, 1588 Main Street. Reservations will be accepted by mail at the Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Please join us, to celebrate our past victory, to honour Dr. Morgentaler, and to help ensure that our right to reproductive choice will be retained.

Yours sincerely,



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♀

Millett, Kate

Flying; New York, Ballantine Books (#24393), (March, 1975); (1974, Author), (Knopf hardcover?) 678p.

This is a chaotic, incoherent autobiography of a woman separated from her family by having avowed herself a lesbian and a bisexual. Looked upon as a leader in the feminist movement because of her college thesis, later published as Sexual Politics, she goes to England to make a film which is nowhere described in sufficient detail to assure the reader that it is more than an amateur production. Friends in England are supportive, but Kate returns to America to lecture on behalf of homosexuals and non-violence, rejoining her lesbian lovers and her Japanese male companion who has been with her some ten years following her visit to Japan. She describes her sexual unions with both sexes in lyric terms, and is apparently as passionate as Casanova.

Throughout the book her self-doubt, her confusion about her personal relationships, her boozing, marijuana smoking, and lustful eroticism, convey the impression of one who is seeking in sensationalism an answer to her reason for living. This book is itself evidence of her search for the answer in recounting the events of her life and the philosophical and social comments of her friends and enemies; but it ends inconclusively.

I am no more successful in understanding her than she.

Ellen showed me her copy of Sexual Politics, which appears to be well-researched and concentrates on writers like D. H. Lawrence and others whose attitudes she may be trying to use in support of her own search for sexual freedom of expression. Although Flying was a waste of time for me, the former book might make clearer to me an understanding of this woman. I do not feel impelled to investigate further just now.

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Millett, Kate

The Prostitution Papers: A Candid Dialogue; New York, Avon Books (#15636), (April, 1973), (1971, Basic Books, Inc. 1973, Millett) 160p.

Millett admits having prostituted herself on occasion, so understands the feeling of degradation which accompanies the sale of sex. She presents in this book the narratives of two prostitutes, one white and one black, both of whom feel trapped, one by drugs and "the life", the other by her economic need for money in excess of what she can earn by legitimate activity.

A third woman is trying to help women who are arraigned in court, but finds that the entire process of arresting the prostitutes is a charade which treats the women as if they were on a treadmill. The arrest, the fine, the dismissal, are routine; there is no attempt at rehabilitation; she is derided because the women have no belief in acceptance by society once they have been in "the life"; so many are addicted to drink or drugs, or are intimidated by pimps, that any escape from their condition is unlikely.

As usual, Millett fails to give the background and personality of the women she tries to portray, and I do not accept her view that women are victims of male dominance. I agree with her view, however, that the law does not treat the sexes equally when sex is commercialized; and my sympathies are with the women.

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Milne, Louise Jordan

The Green Goddess; Photoplay edition; New York, a. L. Burt Company; (1922, Frederick A. Stokes company 330p.

The author was probably a sophisticated Englishwoman who knew conditions in the British army in India and understood the psychology of both the British and the Indian rajas.

George Arliss played in the movie, and I may have seen it although I have no distinct memory of having done so.

Lucilla Crespin marries a Major who inherits alcoholism from his mother whom he worshiped, and when this alienates her, Lucilla turns cold which excuses the Major's womanizing. With a boy and a girl, Lucilla endures the marriage but becomes more dependent on Dr. Traherne, a war buddy of her husband who tries to influence the Major away from alcohol unsuccessfully. The doctor flies the couple but the plane crashes in the territory of Raja Rukh, whose English education and wealth have granted him despotic power over his primitive subjects, and whose valet, an English crook, is in his power.

The Raja tries to offer Lucilla his chief wife's position if she will forsake her husband and children. The two men are under sentence of death because the raja's three brothers are to be executed for murder, and Lucilla will also die if she does not agree to Rukh's demand.

The Major dies at Rukh's hands when he manages to get a wireless call for help by a stratagem which costs the valet's life. This frees Traherne to declare his love, but both are sentenced to death, and are saved by young airmen answering the appeal for help.

The raja yields to the airmen and reflects that Lucilla would likely have proved a nuisance because of her enforced queenship.

A very interesting novel, with good characterisation.

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Militz, Annie Rix

The Renewal of the Body; London, L. N. Fowler & Co. N.d.
166p.

Based on the principle and teachings of New Thought, Mind-cure, Mental, Christian, Divine and Spiritual Science, this inspirational book of lectures tries to divide the body into 12 parts, each guided by a positive belief in its being kept in a good state of health by thinking in line with Christ's teaching.

Although the teaching details are ridiculous, the overall message of the book tends to support healthful living, and it is likely to be a good influence on unsophisticated readers who are inclined to accept its philosophy.

I doubt that I shall ever refer to it again.

Eaton's **GIFT** *Registry*

A German Jew is trying to make a contribution to society by becoming an aide in a mental hospital, having failed as an artist. Having been dispossessed, he feels a kinship with the social misfits comprising both the patients and the staff. He falls in love with his superior, a nurse octoiron, but is already burdened with a mistress who has a child, and on his first sexual encounter with her in his room at the hospital, realizes its inadequacy. The nurse is murdered and he suspects a former Nazi concentration camp patient of the crime, but later learns that the murder was committed by an imbecilic girl patient.

This novel is not well constructed, and is more a series of impressionistic episodes in the life of Abie. The publisher characterizes it as "black humor". It casts little light on the psychology of the patients or the staff, and is of little or no importance, either as a novel or for its bearing on the life of a mental hospital.

Mintz, Morton, and Cohen, Jerry S.

America, Inc.: Who Owns and Operates the United States
New York, Dell Publishing Company, Inc. (May, 1972) (#0433)
Index 511p.

This is an important book, demonstrating that giant corporations have taken control of economic and consequently political life in America.

Page 107 has two items of particular application.

This book is worth re-reading, and is too detailed to make notes easy.

There appears to be no doubt that Garrigues is right in his book You're Paying for It; this book provides confirmation.

Corporations cannot be punished for criminal actions, but their officers who are primarily responsible for their decisions should be prosecuted. The courts have been too lenient on white collar crime. The general public suffers injuries as a result of these actions and the concentrations of power in corporations permit fines to excuse them.

Retain this book for reference.

Mitchell, Alan

Harley Street Hypnotist: A Doctor's Story; London, Four
Square Books Limited #252; (1959, author) 192p.

The first 118 pages of this book summarize the lectures on hypnosis which led to Dr. Wright (pseudonym) becoming a specialist as a hypnotist. These lectures constitute a very good description of most hypnotic phenomena and the methods of inducing hypnotism.

Although there was nothing new to me in that section, two of the case histories he detailed convinced me that I am right in my belief that my own autosuggestion caused me physical problems. I list the case on page 119 and the other on page 133. These prove that physical disabilities are often caused by mental attitudes or early life traumas which must be recognized before the physical can be cured.

This book is clearly written and in the closing chapter are outlined two amazing cases where hypnosis provided cures but which were still a mystery to the doctor.

This is a convincing and important book.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 5, 2000

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Mitchell, Edgar D.

Psychic Exploration: A Challenge for Science; Edited by John White; New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons (1974, Mitchell & Associates
Appendix, Glossary; Index 708p.

This compendium of articles by various authorities provides what amounts to an encyclopedia of psychic research, accepting all the phenomena but insisting on the need for further investigation.

Overall, proof is provided that the materialistic philosophy of physical science does not provide a complete description of our universe or humanity's place in it. The extent of scientific research into psychics surprised me, and the language used in many articles was beyond my comprehension although I understand basic concepts. I read all the articles except Chapter 21 about devices for monitoring nonphysical energies which was altogether too technical.

The glossary might help the general public to understand this volume, but a more popular exposition would suit me better. As a matter of fact, several times while reading without comprehending I almost decided to stick to popular books and avoid technical books like this. Yet, popular summaries often miss essential details, so even scanning the heavier material can help.

Although I accept the aim of this book, I think that scientific critics are likely to cry "not proven". Too many of their own teachings must be modified or discarded if their thinking is to change. Yet the new views of physicists appear to support what Mitchell claims.

I do not know of any book published since this one which is more comprehensive, so this is an essential reference.

Chester D. Cuthbert
July 25, 2003



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Mitchell, Edwin Valentine

Morocco Bound: Adrift Among Books; New York, Farrar & Rinehart Incorporated (1929, Author); Illustrated 232p.

The author operated a bookshop in Hartford, Conn., for many years, converting an old house at 27 Lewis Street into the shop. He made buying trips to the British Isles, bought estate libraries and collections, but dealt mainly in new books. He quotes Arthur Machen, and there are sketched the Machen residence in St. John's Wood and Machen himself; the sketches are not listed in the illustrations list, which applies to the plates only.

This is a book about bookselling and books themselves, and I found it quite interesting, but not important.

Mitchell, Gladys

Merlin's Furlong; London, Michael Joseph (1953)

224p.

Two undergraduates and an older companion undertake to find an art object missing according to a mysterious advertisement, and become involved in two murders and an ostensible suicide, a family whose head has been murdered and who has just changed his will in favor of a descendant whom he appears to dislike.

Mrs. Bradley, an aunt of a friend of the undergraduates, is the female detective who unravels the mystery.

One of the murdered old men is a student and possibly a practitioner of black magic, but no fantasy element is involved in any incident of the story so the book is merely a murder mystery.

I would not waste time re-reading this.

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Mitchell, J. A.

That First Affair and Other Sketches; Illustrated by
C. D. Gibson, A. B. Frost, F. T. Richards and the Author;
Third Edition; New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1897 177p.

Contents

1. That First Affair	3*
2. Mrs. Loftter's Ride	55
3. Two Portraits	81*
4. The Man Who Vanished	139*
5. A Bachelor's Supper	155

#1 re-tells the Adam and Eve story, making cupid satan, and ending with the suggestion that the Garden of Eden was well lost in favor of love. #2 is a character-sketch of a society matron on a street-car. #3 is a love story, with supernormal incidents restricted to written messages which appear behind the portraits on two sides of the Atlantic. #4 tells of a hunter and a bear, with the bear taking the hunter as a meal for his family. #5 could be considered a fantasy because the author-omniscient point-of-view does not explain how the narrator knew what happened as the sole character dies.

Like all of Mitchell's books, this is extremely well-written. A nice little volume, but of no permanent value.

itchell, J. Leslie

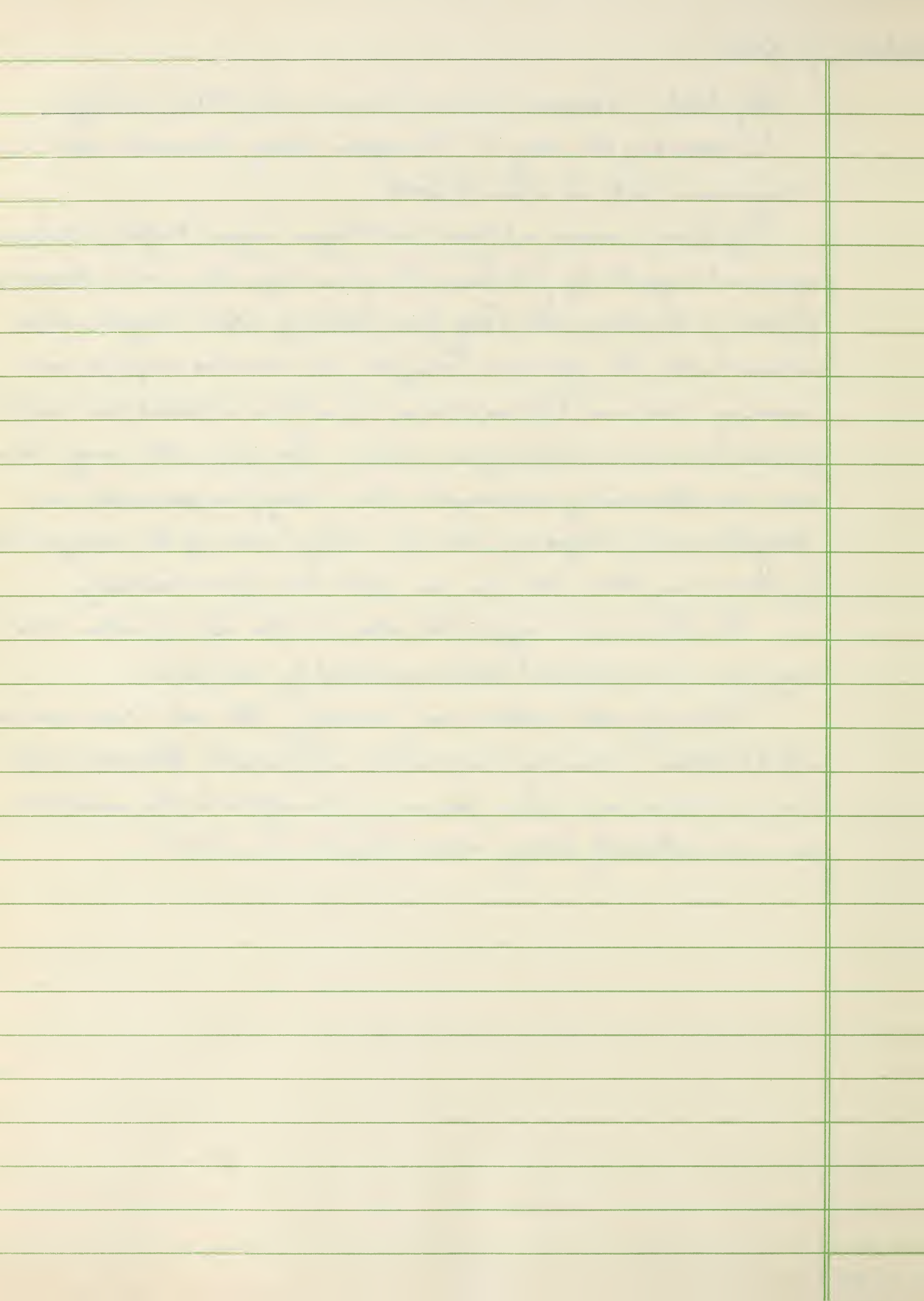
"Gay Hunter"; London, William Heinemann Ltd. (1934); 3-286 pp.

In dedicating the story to Christopher Morley, the author calls it a "companion book" to "Three Go Back".

"Gay Hunter" makes a compact with Major Ledyard Houghton to try an experiment suggested by J.W. Dunne to induce sleep. They awaken thousands of years in the future with Lady Jane Eastling, whom Houghton had induced to share the experiment. Civilization has vanished except for some recording machines, television discs, a fire beam controlled from an enormous phallic tower, and a metallic power station. Gay joins the savage tribes who roam the country and accepts a lover; Lady Jane goes mad, and Houghton as her companion tries to "civilize" some of the savage tribe by convincing them that he can "lift" them from barbarity.

The theme is an appeal to return to the life of nature and away from the artificial existence dictated by "civilization".

Extremely well written and interesting, the book "has no serious intent whatever" according to its author. It forecasts Hierarchs who become decadent and obscene because of their efforts to obtain absolute power, and ultimately destroy what civilization has built.



Mitchell, Mary

A Warning to Wantons: A Fantastic Romance Setting Forth the Not Undeserved but Awful Fate Which Befell a Mink; Garden City, New York, Doubleday Doran, & Company, Inc., 1934 413p.

This is an extremely well written romantic novel about a girl Renee de la Vailliere who uses her looks and her wit to entrap men.

The art of conversation is illustrated at length in the encounters between Renee and an elderly aristocrat Count Anton Kardak, who deplores but is fascinated by Renee. His son, who bores him, is to marry a suitable and competent beauty of Amazonian proportions; but Renee fascinates the youth and almost succeeds in spoiling the match. Max's fiancée, however, takes steps to kidnap Renee and place her with a peasant of god-like physique who believes her to be a woodland elf and worships her to the point of protecting her from the lash of the overseer by doing her work in addition to his own. Renee falls in love with him and bears his child, but cannot stop her flirting and conquests even when Count Anton assists her with shelter and medical help during her childbearing.

Ultimately, Renee lives with her peasant husband and bears him other children, under the protection of Count Anton, who delights in seeing that her daughter will follow in Renee's ways.

This is a sophisticated and completely entertaining novel which deserves re-reading. Exaggerated in many of its aspects, its characterization is excellent and the plot develops out of the characters in a plausible way.

I think that Mabel Heaney would enjoy this book; and also, possibly, Lorna Toolis.

Mitchell, Ronald (Elwy)

Dan Owen and the Angel Joe: A Novel; New York/London,
Harper & Brothers (1948) 250p.

Dan is the husband of a boardinghouse keeper who is an excellent cook and housekeeper, but a nag. He is easy-going and sociable, but neglectful. His wife nags him once too often, so he kills her.

His dream-like life in the afterworld when he commits suicide gives him insights into his own character and those of his guests, and he returns to find that he had actually gone fishing with his friend Joe. He resumes life with his wife in the light of his new understanding and love.

This is a light fantasy, written to remind married couples that they may change with time, but can resume their early feelings of love if they will remember past events and make allowances.

Mitchell, T. H.

Canadian Mining Speculation; George J. McLeod Limited,
(4 Printings, 1957, 1960, 1965, 1965); 105p.
plus information about news sources and a sketch of the author
by Lyle Kenyon Engel, President, Republic Features Syndicate,
Inc. on later pages.

Mitchell claims that speculative and promotional mining
and oil stocks are manipulated on the market by professional
traders, and follow a pattern which can be studied by anyone
interested in making money. He shows that without such study
the general public is deprived of money, and is bound to lose
excepting by lucky accident.

This book is more calculated to discourage speculation
than to show how to make money; but it serves its purpose.

Mittelholzer, Edgar

Shadows Move Among Them; Philadelphia/New York, J. B. Lippincott Company (1951, author) 334p.

A schizophrenic mid-thirties Englishman, ill from the shock of the death of his wife, goes to live with a clergyman uncle in British Guiana, hoping to recuperate. He discovers that the uncle is the respected leader of a Utopian community, falls in love with his cousin, but is so unsure of himself and of the rules of the community that he hesitates to commit himself to joining them.

Overshadowing many of the other interesting characters in the story is a twelve year old girl with psychic sensitivity, sister of the girl he loves and who is jealous, since she also is attracted to him. He has experienced easy conquests, but is weary of sex and afraid of reawakening lust.

The psychic adolescent and her nearest-of-age brother have established secret signals to promote communication, are sympathetic and wise beyond their years. Born at the scene of this novel the author is familiar with it and its native population.

This novel bears close comparison with Robert A. Heinlein's Stranger in a Strange Land, particularly in its detailed exposition of sexual freedom after thorough education. The community views our vaunted civilization as barbaric, and respects Clive Bell's study Civilization. I read Bell's book many years ago, but I do not remember it clearly.

Although this novel was highly praised by critics in both England and America, I can recall only one paperback reprint. It deserves wide distribution, not only sociologically, but for its treatment of psychic events, some rationalized, others unexplained and matching the current situation in parapsychology.

Plenty of food for thought.

Chester D. Cuthbert
February 4, 1995.

Note: Paperback edition: London, Ace Books Limited (#H439), (1961) 255p.

Four Square Book #H439), (1963, reprinted January, 1963 and March, 1964) 255p.

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Mix, Paul E.

The Life and Legend of Tom Mix; South Brunswick and New York, A. S. Barnes and Co., Inc.; London, Thomas Yesseloff Ltd. (1972, Barnes); Illustrated; Appendix; Index; 206p.

This biography of my favorite western film star is not well written, but gives a sufficient overview of the life and career of Tom Mix; and the illustrations are adequate to show highlights of important events and films.

Because Tom starred in many pictures based on books by Zane Grey and Frederick Faust, I am wondering if my noticing these authors on the film credits led to my reading books by them, or whether I discovered the books independently. It is not now possible for me to remember, but certainly I read the books of Zane Grey first, as he was my favorite western author until I discovered Max Brand, who supplanted him.

The author says that Tom earned about six million dollars but died with an estate worth only a little over \$100,000. He lived on a lavish scale, was generous with his money, and lost about a million dollars in the stock market crash of 1929. I see many similarities between him and Faust; and I am convinced that Tom Mix must have been an influence on Faust's writing, which concentrated on heroic feats of riding and fighting, and a love of horses, a high moral tone.

It is, on this supposition, not strange that Mix found so many of Faust's books suitable as a basis for so many of his films. Just going through the appendix and going by the titles which were the same as the books: The Untamed, The Best Bad Man (? title of a serial?), The Night Horseman, Trailin', Des-try Rides Again, Flaming Guns.

And Zane Grey: The Lone Star Ranger, The Last of the Duanes, Riders of the Purple Sage, The Rainbow Trail, The Last Trail.

He also played in The Texan, which I assume was based on Henryryx's book, and The Everlasting Whisper (Jackson Gregory) and The Coming of the Law (Seltzer).

Certainly, I did not see all of these films, or even a large number of those starring Mix, but I saw enough to make me admire the man tremendously.

The author of this biography discloses that Mix had a less admirable side to his character: He was promiscuous, married five times, in late life took to drinking heavily, smoked and drank off-screen while maintaining a high profile and example to youth in his pictures, was a deserter, and was otherwise not praiseworthy. Yet, for a man who had only four years of grammar school education, his accomplishments are astonishing. He is still my boyhood hero.

